

The Greatest Among You

Mark 10:32-52

we're going to be looking at three different stories today in our text

- The way to the cross
- The way of a true servant
- The way to sight when your blind

Our first story we will look at is the prediction of the Death & Resurrection of Jesus

- Our first section is **The way to the cross** Look at verses 32 to 34.

32 Now they were on the road, **going up** to Jerusalem, and **Jesus was going before them;** and **they were amazed.** And **as they followed they were afraid.** Then **He took the twelve aside** again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

Here we see the final trip of Jesus to Jerusalem before he's arrested and crucified.

- He's left Galilee and going to cross over the Jordan River in the area of Jericho,
 - and from Jericho make a 15mile hike up to Jerusalem.

And notice it says they're "going up to Jerusalem."

- Jerusalem is about 2,500 feet above sea level.
 - The Dead Sea where Jesus is at is 1,290 feet below sea level,
- so wherever you are around Jerusalem, if you want to go to Jerusalem,
- you always have to go up.

So they have to ascend 3,500 feet to get to Jerusalem

Table Rock Elevation is 3658 feet above sea level

- 900 Feet in elevation gain in 3.5 miles = It was 4 times the hike of table rock

I love how it says **Jesus was going before them** = Jesus was leading them

- I want Jesus to lead me & go before me
 - I want to follow Him = I want Him to be out front of me
 - I don't want to get ahead of the Lord = that's when I get in trouble

Reminds me of the bridge of the song OCEANS

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders

Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me

Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander

And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour

remember what Moses said in Exodus 33 when God told him to bring the nation of Israel up

- from the Wilderness to the promise land he said Lord if u don't go w/ us I'm not going
 - if you're not leading this thing we're not moving

and that's how it should be for us as Believers Lord if you're going before me then I'll follow

Nobody dragged Jesus to Calvary. He was leading the way. He was walking ahead of them.

"Why were they amazed?"

I believe they were amazed that Jesus was steadfast & unmoved about His purpose & mission

- "I'm going to Jerusalem, nothing's going to keep me from that."
 - He had so much unwavering determination that they were amazed.
 - Luke 9:51 says that Jesus **steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem**,
 - Philippians 2:8 says **he was obedient to even the point of death on the cross**.
- Isaiah 50:7 was a prophecy of this saying "HE set his face like **flint** to go to Jerusalem."
- I was reminded of the movie the Flintstones when I read this verse
 - Flint is one of the hardest most unyielding stones that is used to start fires
 - It can scratch/cut glass = used as arrow heads
 - to set ones face like flint is to have a fixed gaze that refuses to be distracted
 - to not shrink back, not be intimidated by opposition,
 - having immovable determination to the obedience to the will of God
 - unbreakable determination in the face of suffering
 - He had toughness facing an extremely excruciating difficult task
 - He was laser focused on His goal and mission!
- They were amazed that he was so passionate and focused on the mission to go to the cross

It was the same Greek word Amazed in Mark 2:12 when Jesus heals the paralytic Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were **amazed** and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

It's the same Greek word Amazed in Mark 6:51 when Jesus walks on water & calms the sea they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

Living a successful Christian life on mission on track requires setting our faces like Flint

- Paul tells us to run our race with our eyes on the prize
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may ^[a]obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize ^[b]is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body.

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained,^[a] or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have ^[b]apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul said in Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my ^[b]race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the ^[a]author

and ^[a]finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I believe **they got afraid** b/c he explains the bad things that are going to happen.

- And they know He is on the top of the Most Wanted list to be killed & targeted
 - And it would make anyone afraid to be associated with the one
 - Who is going to be going into a city where they want to kill him
 - And arrest him
 - They are probably thinking am I going to be arrested & killed also
 - But Jesus didn't turn back. He kept going focused on his mission charging it head on
- Jesus had a lot of courage to say, "I know what's waiting for me in Jerusalem and I'm going.
- Nobody's going to detour me from my mission.

Jesus knew completely what was going to happen in Jerusalem. And he still went.

- And the courage of Jesus amazed the disciples and it should amaze each of us.

I believe today there are many non-courageous Christians,

- compared to previous times when men and women would courageously
 - suffer and die for Jesus and be bold in the face of persecution

Jesus wants us to be a courageous bold Christian in this world

- To shine bright at work & let people know that you are a Christian!
 - A follower of Jesus

So many people have very temporal conversations w/ people in public & at the work place

- Where God wants us to share our faith to others

So many Christians are afraid to be made fun of.

- Many don't want to offend anybody.

My prayer is that God would turn us into courageous Christians

Jesus hiked this long journey, this path of suffering and death b/c of his great love for us

They were amazed that Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem

- knowing that suffering and death awaited him.

I love how it says **Jesus took the disciples aside**

- He had some important information to share with them
 - About what was going to happen to Him = a little prep locker room talk
- ³³ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; ³⁴ and they will mock Him, and ^[a]scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

This is the third time Jesus tells them this as He told them in Chapter 8 & 9 also

- And now he tells them again in chapter 10
Jesus had to tell the disciples several times
 - And they didn't quite fully understand...
- And sometimes we are like the disciples and hard of hearing & forget things
- and we need the Lord to say something to us again & remind us

Here we see 8 prophecies of Jesus about events that had not happened yet.

It's one thing to predict that you will die as all of us will eventually die

- And It's a big thing to predict how you are going to die.
- But it's a God thing to be able to predict that after you die, you won't stay dead.
- Jesus did not just predict that he would rise. He predicted when he would rise 3 days

He's preparing them for what's coming As he mentions being scorged, spit on & killed
fear began to grip their heart because they knew what would happen to Jesus.

- And what things might happen to them as well.
- And the last sentence just went over their heads. They forgot all about it
 - "Third day I'm going to rise from the dead."

Its amazing how He tells them the exact way he's going to die.

- And how he will rise from the dead

I love how Jesus never talked about the cross without mentioning the resurrection.

- so many people talk about the cross in their lives = all the negative hard stuff
 - without talking about the hope of the resurrection.

I'm going through this excruciating pain & difficulty

But they don't talk about the hope of the resurrection that Jesus can bring in their life
JESUS LOVES TO TAKE CRUSIFIXIONS< ITS OVER< INTO RESURRECTIONS NO ITS NOT

- Lets pray for God to move in mighty ways in the hard situations we are facing
- Don't loose hope in what Jesus can do!

- Do you believe God can work out your difficulty for His good?
 - Do you believe He can turn Ashes into beauty?

There's hope in Jesus! Is their things that have died in your life?

- Jesus can bring them back to life.

Let's come to the second thing we want to look at.

- We've looked at **The way to the cross**
 - Number 2, let's take a look at **the way of a true servant**
 - In verses 35 through 45

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

³⁷ They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

³⁹ They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that

I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;⁴⁰ but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.”⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.⁴² But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Jesus says if you want to be great in the kingdom of heaven.

- It's about being a humble servant

their number one topic of conversation was? Which one of them was greatest among them?

when Jesus brings up if their able to drink the cup He is going to drink,

- it has to do with the image of the cup of the wrath of God.

when Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane,

- He said, 'Lord, if it's possible, let this cup pass from me.

He asks them are you ready to die with me

- are you ready to go through what I'm about to go through

That word for baptized is the same word baptism all throughout the scripture.

- It means to be immersed or to be submerged, to be set under something.

And sometimes we talk about a person being submerged in suffering

- or submerged in debt or submerged in difficulty.

And Jesus says, "I'm going to be submerged into suffering.

- Can you guys take that same baptism?"

baptism is a picture of death as we go under the water, we die to the old man, to the flesh.

- And when we come up out of the water, it represents our new life.

They didn't fully understand to what degree they will suffer

- James became the first apostle to be killed. In Acts 12:2, he was beheaded.
- And John was boiled & exiled on the island of Patmos.

Jesus said, if you want to be great, you have to be a servant.

- And if you want to be first, you must be the slave of all.

we are like Jesus when we ask, who can I serve? Who can I pray for?

Jesus said, I didn't come to be served but to serve. And the longer we walk with him,

- the more of a servant heart we will have as you study the way of Jesus

But whoever desires to be great among you shall be your servant.

- That's the path to greatness in the kingdom of God.

Jesus who deserves to be served and to be worshiped set aside his own Divine Privileges

- and came and served us he didn't come to be served but to serve
- and to give his life a ransom for many

that's the example that we follow in whatever environment we are in

- be the servant of all

lets look for those opportunities and serve the Lord

Jesus said, "**It's more blessed to give than to receive.**"

I love how it says in verse 45 He came to give his life a ransom for many."

- This is one of the great claims that Jesus made about himself
 - He's the one who stands in the place of guilty sinners
 - and he offers himself as a substitute for them.

He says, "I'm going to give myself as a ransom for them." It's a beautiful picture.

It's as if you're a prisoner in jail and Jesus comes

- and offers Himself as an exchange."

often times people are ransomed for money,

- I'll pay your kidnappers this much money and that's the ransom
- and then they'll give you back.

Well, Jesus says, "I didn't ransom you with money, but with my own life.

- I gave my life as a ransom for many."

John 15:13 says theirs no **Greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**

let's come to the third and final section in our study today

- **The way to sight when your blind** in vs. 46-52

⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Here we see the faith of Bartimaeus as he calls Jesus **the son of David**.

- Now the son of David is a messianic term and there is 17 verses in the NT
- That mention Jesus as **the Son of David**

But how could Jesus be the son of David if David lived 1000 years before Jesus?

- Jesus the messiah was the fulfillment of the prophecy of the seed of David

2 Samuel 7:12-16 **When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**

Jesus was the promised messiah who had to be from the line of David

- **Matthew 1** gives the genealogical proof that Jesus was from the line of David
- Through Joseph his Legal Father

And **Luke 3** gives the genealogical proof that Jesus was from the line of David

- Through Mary

The title Son of David is a Messianic Title saying He was the long-awaited Deliverer

- And the fulfillment of the OT prophecies!

It's the exact same phrase people were shouting out in **Matthew 21:9** on Palm Sunday

the multitudes cried out, saying:

"Hosanna to **the Son of David!**

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Hosanna in the highest!"

Even though Bartimaeus was physically blind, spiritually he had perfect vision.

- He knew exactly who Jesus was because he had faith as He knew Jesus was the son of David

Hebrews 11:1 gives us the definition of faith. **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** He couldn't see Jesus, but he had faith in Jesus.

- And the truth is we can't see Jesus physically right now on earth,
 - but we have faith in Jesus because faith is the substance of things hoped for
 - and the evidence of things not seen.
- And I am sure someone told Bart about Jesus & shared the gospel with him
 - Because he knew about Jesus being the messiah who was healing the blind

Romans 10:17 **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Next we will see the persistence of Bartimaeus in verse 48...

⁴⁸ Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

they tried to tell him to be quiet. "You're bugging us & Jesus."

- But the truth is you can never bug Jesus. He's never too busy to listen to you.

Here we see Bart didn't give up when the crowds were trying to get him to be quiet

- People were trying to stop him and silence him from Jesus

And Bart truly sets a great example for us

- because we often have a tendency to throw in the towel and call it quits
 - When the peer pressure hits and the enemy attacks

I believe many people give up too soon whenever they hit struggles & hardships!

- I believe God wants us to press in when things get hard
 - and be persistent in our prayer and seek God

Ephesians 3:20 says, **God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.**

- And we need to live by faith, not by sight just like Bart.

I love the old song, **open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart**

- **I want to see you.**

Helen Keller, one of the most famous blind people in history said,

- " Better to be blind and see with your heart,
 - than to have two good eyes and see nothing.."

Bart saw in His heart who Jesus truly was even though he was blind

Now we will see the compassion of Jesus toward Bartimaeus,

- In vs. 49

⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

I love how Jesus called for the man

- and people said be of good cheer he's calling you

And we should all be of good cheer because Jesus has called every single one of us

- he wants to walk with us, he wants you to talk with us
 - no matter what condition you're in

Some of Jesus favorite words we find him saying is come to me!!!

⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

The garment he threw aside was a beggar's garment

- basically it would be set up like a Beach or grass Blanket
 - you would set up on the side of the road

and that was your spot you would sit and beg from

but him throwing it aside indicates he knew I'm not going to need this anymore

- and when Jesus calls us to follow after him
 - there's certain things we don't need anymore

that Jesus doesn't want part of our life anymore

- He doesn't want us to identify with that anymore = fast & furious movie

But the truth is when we give our life to Jesus He wants to transform us into a New Creation

And we have to ask ourselves is there anything in our lives that we need to throw aside

- that is hindering your relationship with Jesus
 - that is holding you back from fully following Jesus
 - and holding you back from being who God has called you to be?

When we give our life to Jesus we have a new identity in Christ

⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

The blind man said to Him, ⁵² "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has ⁵³ made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Jesus heals this blind man and told him, "Go your way."

- but He decided to follow Jesus
 - because he realized the way of Jesus is the best way to go.

He was so thankful for what Jesus had done for him

- he wasn't going to let Jesus out of his sight, I'm going to follow you.

someone who is truly saved someone who has truly gone from blindness to sight

- from Death to life = the proper response is you follow Jesus

Keep Your Eyes on him

Can you imagine the first thing he ever saw was the face of Jesus.

Fanny Crosby who wrote the Hymn **Blessed Assurance** & 8,000 other Hymns

- Said **she wouldn't trade her blindness** when a preacher once said
 - it was a pity she was born blind

She said if she had a choice she would stay blind

- **so that the very first face her eyes would ever see**
 - **would be the face of her savior in heaven.**

She believed blindness allowed her to see Jesus more clearly with her soul

- **And if she could see she would be focused on many other things**
 - **And she wouldn't of probably written all these amazing hymns**
- She lived with eternal perspective believing that her earthly challenges
 - were temporary and her spiritual eyes were focused on the glory of God.

Share Gospel & Pray