

Mark 10:42-45 “Jesus Gave His Life”

Pastor Bruce Zachary

Thesis: As we contemplate this day, we can call it “Good Friday” because it is the day we commemorate Jesus sacrifice on the cross. It is “good” not because of the suffering that our Savior endured, but because of what it accomplished. Jesus gave His life so that we can live.

Subject: Jesus’ Sacrifice

Object: Reflect and respond to God’s love.

1. God’s Greatness Displayed [42-45]:

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 servant of all.

In context, Jesus and His disciples were headed to Jerusalem. There was an anticipation that He might establish His kingdom once He arrived in Jerusalem, but that was not God’s plan at that time. Some of His disciples began to seek positions of power in the coming kingdom.

So, *Jesus called them to Himself* [42], and began to contrast the world’s idea of greatness, and God’s ideal of greatness. Jesus told 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]. Those in places of authority or power in the world tend to abuse their position for their own benefit and gain, sometimes at the expense or exploitation of others. Jesus made it clear that God’s way is different, *Yet it shall not be so among you* [43]. God turns things right-side up.

God’s goodness and greatness are displayed by His desire to serve rather than being served.

The path to being great in God’s kingdom is by serving God through serving others [43-45] *Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be servant of all.*

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

Notice, God’s people are not discouraged from desiring greatness in God’s kingdom. Yet, influence, authority, and opportunity are to be used to serve others, rather than for personal gain. Jesus exemplified the principle of serving others. He is the One who is worthy and deserves to be served, and yet He declares that He came to serve not to be served.

How does God’s desire to serve you make you feel?

For me, I’m comforted and encouraged by this truth. Jesus’ example makes me want to do likewise. I want to serve my family, friends, and neighbors where I live, play, worship, work, or go to school whether virtually or as I engage while social distancing.

2. God's Goodness Confirmed [45]

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 exemplified the principle of serving others. He is the One who is worthy and deserves to be served, and yet He declares that He came to serve not to be served. The ultimate expression of Jesus' service to humanity is His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. Jesus took the penalty that we all deserved for our sin against God. Jesus *gives His life* so we can live with God. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends [Jn.15:13].

How does Jesus willingness to give His life for you make you feel?

This COVID-19 crisis has so many of us worried, confused, and overwhelmed. When we don't understand, can't control, can't figure it out, it is comforting to know God loves me, and His plans are good and perfect. The cross prove it.

3. God's Offer of Life [45]

Jesus *give His life as a ransom for many*. The Greek term refers to paying a price to redeem another. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the price to liberate, or set us free, from the misery of sin. Jesus' gave His life so that we can be restored to God.

When you choose to commit to follow Jesus, you receive God's forgiveness for all that you've ever done, or failed to do (sin) that keeps you separated from God. Also, you receive spiritual life. You experience a spiritual birth so that you can experience life with God from that moment forward through eternity.

Eternal life is life with God, and it is available because of what Jesus did on this day that we commemorate and celebrate as Good Friday. Once you receive spiritual life with God, nothing can separate you from Him [Rom. 8:31-39].

Communion: reflect and respond to God's love: commit, recommit, renew, rejoice.