

Mark 10:32-52 “The Example of the Servant”

Please stand and open your Bibles to Philippians 3:17-21

We have been with Jesus and the Disciples on their way to Jerusalem. We have seen that they are on the pilgrim highway that is by way of “Beyond the Jordan”. We know that because they will pass through Jericho today, the last stop before the city. There are large crowds going this way with them to the Passover and we have been engaged in many encounters. After the run in with the Rich Young Ruler we are continuing our journey...

Jesus tells them for the third time

Mark 10:32-34

This is the third time that we have recorded that Jesus is telling them the truth of what is about to happen. Notice before he tells them they are amazed and afraid. Why? We have some context from John’s gospel

John 11:8

The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”

After Jesus explains why they are going there Thomas says this...

John 11:16

Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

So, you see they are afraid for their safety. It was too dangerous to go there. They were also blind to what was going to happen as we see in Luke’s account...

Luke 19:34

But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

Two things here. One, is we sometimes don’t really understand what God is doing until after the fact. Often times I can look back and see that God had clearly explained it, but I couldn’t understand it then. God is going to allow them to go through what they are going to go through for a purpose and a reason. God has you going through stuff you don’t understand, but He does have a plan we just need to trust Him.

Second, Jesus is telling them what literally is going to happen in the future. God doesn’t deal with the future of things in hidden allegories and coded secrets. He says what He means and means what He says. Jesus is laying out the facts. God has laid out the facts of the future for us. He has told us plainly. We can either listen or let our biases explain it for us. As we see now, they are letting preconceived ideas guide them in what is happening. Instead of taking God at His word they are going on

what they have been taught. Sound Familiar? Here's our proof...

James and John have a question

Mark 10:35-41

This has happened so many times it is almost comical! They still think that Jesus is going to set up His kingdom now and they are still vying for positions. Maybe they were not getting too far in the argument of who would be the greatest, so they wanted to just settle it for everyone by calling shotgun. What even makes this story more funnier is what we learned in Matthew's account...

Matthew 20:20

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

They sent their mother! Maybe they thought "Jesus can't turn down mom" or maybe they had been whining to mom about the whole argument thing and she came up with the idea. I don't know but they get more than they bargain for.

Jesus asks them if they are able, and they said we are but did they really know what they are saying? For some it be would sooner than they think...

Acts 12:1-2

Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Early on in Church history and the second recorded martyr of the faith was James. I wonder if his mom was still alive when this happened? We know this is most likely before the gospels were written. What about John?

Revelation 1:9

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Tradition tells us that it wasn't an easy road to prison life. Emperor Domitian, enraged with Christianity ordered John the Apostle to be boiled in oil. This was unsuccessful so he was banished to the prison Island of Patmos, which was no camp. It was hours of slave labor in the mines breaking rocks. Yes, they both suffered like Christ just because they followed Him. They will both be rewarded greatly in Heaven but there is only one person at the right hand of the Father and that is Jesus Himself. Jesus will now explain to us the way to true greatness...

The Example of the Servant

Mark 10:42-45

The first thing Jesus says is “You guys need to look at how the world looks at leadership”. What did that look like? Emperors that wield their authority to get what they wanted and Masters that made their slaves do whatever they wanted. They have been seeing themselves in these roles. “Don’t you know we are the twelve?”. Jesus even gave them a taste of His power and they were amazed that the demons were subject to them. They are infected by the pride of life. They wanted position when they needed possession. But Jesus said...

Mark 10:43

“Yet it shall not be so among you”

This is something that is ignored in many church circles. They will use the role of pastor and elder to tell people what they can and can’t do. Some will even check on you if you haven’t tithed! And then there is the heresy of the “Five-Fold” Ministry where they say that you are not an authentic Last day’s church unless you have the authority of Apostles and Prophets. Jesus tells us who we are to be like in two descriptions.

Mark 10:43

but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. (Greek Diakone, a Deacon or Servant).

You want to be great, be a deacon. This is one who serves others. It is not an office of authority. The best example we have of this is in Acts 6 when the widows were being neglected and they raised up seven to do the work of waiting tables. All of

them went on to do great things for God because they had the right attitude. People were more important than position. If you come here wanting a position don't be surprised to find yourself with a toilet brush in one hand and a plunger in the other! But then he takes it to another level in the next statement...

Mark 10:44

And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave (Greek Doulos, Slave, Someone's Property) of all.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary puts it like this:

“A slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other.”

What!? No way! Is Jesus telling us to be put into the bondage of slavery? No, not in that sense of being sold against your will but, willingly. It is also translated Bondservant...

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bondservant (Doulos) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

The first law detailed in the book of Exodus after the ten commandments are listed in chapter 20 is the law of the bondservant. This was after the six years of service when your brother was supposed to set you free you decide that you want to stay because he has been good to you then you could

become a bondservant. This is now an act of your will. Not against it as in the plague of our nation in it's past. This is the example that Christ wants from you, and it is the only path to rewards in His kingdom. That is why the whole theme of Mark is summed up here...

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

As we read earlier:

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Paul would also say:

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

And Jesus told the Disciples at the last supper when he has washed their feet:

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

What is that example?

Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant (Doulos), and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name...

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

You will never know what it means to be great in the Kingdom of God unless you have a heart and mind to serve others. If your evangelism is based on pure obedience, you still don't get it. You need to care for others as Christ cares for you and I. Jesus saw our need and did something about it. He gave up His authority to step into our place. Are you willing to give up your pride to serve others? Nothing that you do for the kingdom will go unnoticed. Rewards are great for those that give of themselves to serve our master by serving others.

Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-52

The first thing we need to clear up are the critics who love to point out every discrepancy.

In Luke we read...

Luke 18:35

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging.

Is He coming out or going in? Which is it? We can't trust this book! But of course, we have the shovel that has dug up the truth. * There are two Jericho's at the time of Jesus. The old city that was destroyed by God and then rebuilt and another one. The road ran right through them and that is why Mark put it this way. He came to as He was going out.

Now what is interesting is that Mark gives us this guy's complete name. This is most likely as He would have become well known in the early church. We are told he follows Him and probably continued even after Pentecost. I still don't know why they were trying to shut him up, I mean He has been healing people for the last three years. Maybe they didn't want to be bothered on the way to Jerusalem. You have to respect the man's tenacity. He wouldn't give up. What about you? What length are you willing to go to get the attention of Jesus? Just church on Sunday? I mean, come on, this Jesus thing is OK but I got to live my life, right? The world is going along like

everything is great not even knowing they are blind. At least this one sees his need. Do you see yours? Don't stop crying out to Jesus. Don't give up. Because at one moment you will soon hear His voice calling you!

The moment he hears His call he throws off his garment. This would be his garment of affliction. It would have been the thing that identified him as the blind man. This was an act of faith. He knew that Jesus was going to heal Him so gets up and leaves behind his old identity. When we get saved it is exactly the same. We are turning our old identify over to a new one. See the response from Jesus...

Mark 10:52

Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has (Literally "Saved you"!) made you well."

Bartimaeus understood the way to salvation. He knew that it was by faith, and he was willing to do whatever it takes to get there.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

And how does one receive this gift? The same way he did...

Romans 10:13

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

There’s the example and as we started today, we end with how to live...

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Live our lives as the servant who received mercy just like everyone else. Serving others and showing them the way of salvation...calling on Him.