

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS – p. 36

“He Came to Serve”

Mark 10:32-45

A Repeated Pattern – v. 31

What we are seeing in the text before us today is what we have been seeing, repeatedly, in the middle part of Mark’s gospel –

-What we are seeing is summarized in 10:31 – *“But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”*

This began back in 8:34 –

-To be the disciple of Jesus is not a matter of self-promotion, self-trust, self-reliance –

-You look away from yourself and to Christ.

-You want to save your life? Then lose it!

-This is the way of Jesus.

We saw the pattern repeated in 9:33-37 –

-You want to be great? Become like a child – A child is totally dependent.

-You want to be first? Become a servant.

Then we saw the pattern repeated in 10:17ff –

-Why did the rich, young, ruler leave unhappy?

-When the choice came down to it – your stuff or obeying God – he took his stuff.

-He had more confidence, more affection, more identity with his stuff than he did Christ.

-And Peter responds to this by asserting his own self-confidence and self-reliance by saying, “Look what we have given up for you!”

-Look at our devotion!

-Jesus says, in effect, Peter, get to the back!

-v. 31 – *“But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”*

In today’s text the pattern is repeated as Jesus, in verses 32-34, will tell the disciples that the pattern is cross before resurrection –

What the pattern is teaching –

-If you want to follow Christ – If you want eternal life, then...

-Look away from yourself – Self-reliance, self-righteousness, self-rule

-Look to Christ – Look to the work of Christ; Look to the way of Christ.

-The place from which you glorify God and help others is from the back!

A Resolute Purpose – vs. 32-34

In verses 32-34, we have for the third time Jesus telling the disciples that He is on a one-way journey to Jerusalem.

Verse 32 – *“And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid...”*

-They are walking from the Jordan River valley to Jericho then up the Jericho Road to Jerusalem.

It says that those who followed him were “amazed” and “afraid” –

-Those that followed Him were the Twelve –

-And others like “the Marys” –Mary, His mother, is at the cross; the Marys at the tomb – one of which was Mary Magdalene

-Some were afraid because He was going there to die –

-And some were amazed because He was going there to die!

Jesus was resolute in His determination to finish His purpose –

-He was going up the Jericho Road to Jerusalem

-Where He would be delivered up and condemned to death by religious leaders

-Delivered to the Gentiles who would torture and kill Him

-Then be raised from the dead

-All this to redeem you! All this to pay for your sins!

Jesus would let nothing stop Him from doing what had to be done to reconcile you to God!

A Recurring Problem – vs. 35-45

Here is the recurring problem –

-The disciples, especially the Twelve, are not listening to Jesus nor are they following His example –

-Instead, they keep trying to push to the front of the line!

-This time it is James and John who come asking for special privilege.

Verse 35 – *“And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, ‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’”*

-Are you already sensing a problem?

-What they ask is a problem –

-Why they ask is a problem –

-How they ask is a problem –

-Where they ask is a problem –

-When they ask is a problem –

-Here is what we should get from that –

-A selfish heart makes for blind eyes –

-We will not accurately see the people around us.

-Pride distorts reality.

We should note the way Jesus responds –

-vs. 38-40 *“Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?’ And they said to him, ‘We are able.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’”*

-If you were in charge of the disciples, you would have fired Peter about ten times by now.

-Jesus’ commitment was to grow disciples – not find ready-made ones.

-First, He said – “You don’t know what you are asking for.”

-Remember, there is a cross before the crown.

-When He talks about the “cup” and the “baptism” He is talking about rejection, torture, crucifixion.

-If you want to be that close to me then you will get what I get!

-Then, Jesus gives what would become a word of hope –

-As a matter of fact, you will drink of the cup and be baptized by fire!

-One day they would live by faith in His promises – and die for it!

For whom it has been prepared –

-It is already settled with God –

-Only those pushing themselves to the front care about such things.

Verse 41 – *“And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.”*

-Mad they didn’t think of it first!

-Recurring problem...

-Phil. 2

James 4:1-10

The theme verse of Mark – 10:45 – *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*