

May 26th, 2019
The Son of Man Came to Serve
Mark 10:32-52

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

May 19 2 Chron. 32-34	May 23 Ezra 8-10
May 20 2 Chron. 35-36	May 24 Nehemiah 1-3
May 21 Ezra 1-3	May 25 Nehemiah 4-6
May 22 Ezra 4-6	May 26 Nehemiah 7

Lesson Introduction: *The passage this week begins with Jesus, for the third time, foretelling His death to His disciples. We see that He was willingly marching toward Jerusalem to face His horrific death. As we study the text this week, we will see that Jesus came to serve, to the point of death, and that He calls His followers to that same lifestyle.*

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Jesus went to the cross willingly (V. 32-34, 45)**
- **Jesus came to serve and to die (V. 34-45)**
- **Jesus has compassion for the lowly (V. 46-52)**

Mark 10:32-52 English Standard Version

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. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. 34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

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." 36 And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 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?" 39 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, 40 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." 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 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."

46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 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!" 48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." 50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." 52 And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Discussion Section 1: Marching Onward Toward Death (V.32-34)

-What is significant about the fact that they were headed to Jerusalem?

-How does this of Jesus' death differ from the other two seen earlier in the Gospel of Mark? **(8:31-32; 9:30-31)**

-How do we see Jesus' humility in these verses?

Note: *Here at the beginning of our passage, we see Jesus for the third time in 3 chapters foretell His death. Verse 32 starts out by telling us that Jesus and His disciples were headed for Jerusalem, and we find out in verse 33 that Jerusalem will be the place of Jesus' death. It is remarkable that Jesus marched on toward Jerusalem with His disciples, knowing all the way, that He was going there to face His brutal death. We see in this passage particularly, the brutality that His death would entail. He knew that He would be mocked, spit on,*

flogged, and finally, nailed to a cross and killed. Yet he marched on.

As we consider Jesus' journey into Jerusalem, may we be grateful for His willingness to press onward toward the cross, and face the brutality of man and wrath of God on our behalf. Jesus did not have to die for us, but He gladly submitted to the will of the Father and died took on the horrors of the cross on our behalf (**Galatians 1:3-4, Luke 22:42, Matthew 26:53-54**). As we go further into this lesson, we will see the servant nature of Christ, and these first few verses serve as a great reminder of His determination to fulfill the purpose for which His Father had sent Him. Yet, even as Jesus was continually reminding His disciples of His ultimate purpose, they failed to understand. Our next section will show us their lack of comprehension, and remind us that we too often miss the boat when it comes to following Christ's example.

Discussion Section 2: The Son of Man Came to Serve (V.35-45)

-What is wrong with James and John's initial statement to Jesus, as well as their question?

-What does Jesus' question to them mean? What cup and baptism is He referring to?

-Why were the other disciples "indignant"?

-What does it mean that Jesus came to be a "ransom"?

Note: Amazingly, after Jesus' third time foretelling His death, His disciples were still missing the point. So much so, that James and John come to Him and ask Him to do for them **whatever they want!** What a contrast we see between their attitudes (and so often ours) and Jesus'. Jesus was always concerned with the will of the Father (**John 5:19, Galatians 1:3-4, Luke 22:42, Matthew 26:53-54**), yet James and John were seeking their own will, which is a direct contradiction to the way Jesus had taught them to pray (**Matthew 6:9-10**). As we begin this section, we should spend time considering how often we seek our own desires without considering what the Father might have for us. If we truly understood the foolishness that lives within us, we would never ask God to do for us whatever **we** want. But rather, we would seek first His kingdom and righteousness, realizing that He will give us what's good according to His will (**Matthew 6:33**).

In considering the request that James and John made, we can see again how misguided their request was. They essentially asked to be Jesus' top two advisors when He becomes king and overthrows the Roman rule (at least, that's what they were expecting). But Jesus tells them that they know not what they ask, for He was about to bear the cup of death and be immersed into persecution. They still do not understand although Jesus tells them that one day they will. At all of this, the other disciples become indignant. Not because they did not like James and John's spirit of arrogance, but because they too were arrogant and they wanted the seat of honor for themselves. And so, Jesus takes this opportunity to once again remind His disciples why He came, and what true greatness in His kingdom looks like.

Jesus first tells them that Christian greatness is not gauged in the same way as worldly greatness. Rather than lording our power over others to gain influence, the Christian is called to humble sacrifice for the sake of showing people the gospel. Essentially, Jesus is saying that if we want to be great in the kingdom of Heaven, we will lay down our lives constantly to point others to the one who laid down His life as a ransom for many. Jesus would literally die to buy our freedom. His sacrificial love and obedience are why He is exalted in God's kingdom (**Philippians 2:5-11**). If this is true of our master, it should most certainly be true of us (**John 15:20**).

Discussion Section 3: Service Exemplified (V. 46-52)

-How do we see Jesus' servant lifestyle displayed in these verses?

-What is the result of Jesus' healing of Bartimaeus?

-What does Jesus' final statement to Bartimaeus teach us about salvation?

Note: As this chapter comes to a close, let us reflect on Jesus' example of service and love by considering His interaction with Bartimaeus. This man had absolutely nothing to offer Jesus to the point that many rebuked him for even asking for healing. Yet the text says that "Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.'" Here, Jesus was showing His disciples His teaching on service in action. Rather than asking someone to do whatever He wanted, Jesus asked a blind beggar what He could do for him and then He healed the man. May this be the example we follow so that God's glory might shine more clearly through us in this dark and hurting world.