

Mark 10

Lesson for Sunday, August 6, 2023

SUMMARY: Jesus blesses some children and teaches about childlike faith. He talks about divorce and the difficulty of having both worldly and heavenly riches. He predicts His death. James and John ask for glory in the kingdom. Jesus heals a blind man.

1. Jesus and the Subject of Divorce (vs. 1-12)
 - a. The insincere group (vs. 1-9)
 - b. The sincere group (vs. 10-12)
2. Jesus and Some Little Children (vs. 13-16)
 - a. He rebukes the disciples (vs. 13-14)
 - b. He receives the children (vs. 15-16)
3. Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler (vs. vs. 17-22)
 - a. The seeking ruler (vs. 17-21)
 - b. The sorrowing ruler (vs. 22)
4. Jesus and the Disciples (vs. 23-31)
 - a. The allegory (vs. 23-25)
 - b. The amazement (vs. 26)
 - c. The assurance (vs. 27-31)
5. Following Jesus to the Cross as a Servant (vs. 32-45)
 - a. *(This is our text for the day, so they can see the outline below.)*
6. Jesus and the Blind Man (vs. 46-52)
 - a. The request of the blind man (vs. 46-47)
 - b. The response of the crowd (vs. 48-50)
 - c. The restoration by the Savior (vs. 51-52)

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Mark 8-10 is the most specific teaching on discipleship in the New Testament. In each chapter:
 - A prediction of the Lord's death and resurrection.
 - A foolish response by the disciples.
 - A lesson on discipleship, service, and true spiritual greatness.
- ⇒ This teaching reaches its climax in 10:45 which is the key verse to the book of Mark. We are sent to serve, even laying down our lives if God ordains it, just as He ordained it for His Son.
- ⇒ Are you a servant? The issue of servanthood is the theme of this passage.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Consider the Cost of Being a Servant (vs. 32-34)
 - a. Jesus "went before" the disciples. He was leading them to Jerusalem and the destiny that He knew was waiting for Him. Nothing could stop Him on His march to Calvary.
 - b. The road of service invites misunderstanding (vs. 32).
 - i. The verse says the disciples "were amazed" and "were afraid." They were unnerved.
 - ii. They know what Jesus knows and it bothers them.
 - c. The road of service involves a mission (vs. 32-34).
 - i. Eight specific aspects of His passion and His mission are delineated in vs. 33-34. Jesus sovereignly lays out exactly what is to happen in the coming days.
 - ii. This reminds us that there are no accidents with God. What is true with Jesus is true with us: God orchestrates the steps of our lives. There are no accidents or surprises with Him.
 - iii. Just as Jesus was sent to serve, He sends us to serve. Count the cost!
2. Consider the Challenge to Being a Servant (vs. 35-40)
 - a. Being a servant goes against not only the ways of the world, it goes against our own nature. Being a servant does not come naturally to people who more often dream of being served.

- b. James and John got one thing right: Jesus was headed for glory. But they got everything else wrong!
 - c. Being a servant goes against our human inclinations (vs. 35-37). Their request reveals their complete lack of comprehension of what Jesus has just said. They missed:
 - i. What it actually means to follow Jesus, to be His disciple.
 - ii. Their own inflated opinion of themselves and their own importance.
 - iii. How God actually measures greatness.
 - iv. Conclusion: Being a servant after the pattern of Jesus is a divine enablement, not a human inclination.
 - d. Being a servant is ordained by divine revelation (vs. 38-40).
 - i. Jesus was gentle in His response, but also very clear and to the point. He compares His approaching suffering and death to drinking a cup and experiencing a baptism.
 - ii. Drinking a cup with someone speaks of sharing in that person's fate.
 - iii. Similarly, Jesus's passion and death were a baptism – being overwhelmed, flooded and immersed in the plan God had for Him.
 - iv. Their response in verse 39 makes it plain James and John did not understand.
 - e. They missed that the pathway to glory is always the pathway of suffering. Before the crown there is a cup. Before the blessings there is always a baptism.
3. Consider the Conflict in Being a Servant (vs. 41-44)
- a. The other ten were upset – probably because they didn't think to ask first! Jesus takes this opportunity to teach His most powerful lesson on being a servant.
 - b. You must say no to the ways of the world (vs. 41-43).
 - i. The world is driven by selfish ambition and a lust for power and position.
 - ii. The more important you are, the more people will serve you.
 - iii. Jesus was clear, "so shall it not be among you."
 - c. You must say yes to the work of a slave (vs. 43-44).
 - i. To please God, we must become a servant (*diakonos* in 43) and a slave (*doulos* in 44).
 - ii. The servant/slave will have the mind of Christ (see Philippians 2:3-5).
 - d. Jesus reverses all ideas of greatness, turning the world's philosophy on its head.
4. Consider Christ When Being a Servant (vs. 45)
- a. Jesus has already told them that He will die in Jerusalem. Now He tells them why. Jesus does what no other person has ever done: He came to serve us not just as our example, but as our ransom!
 - b. Follow Christ in service.
 - i. "For even" emphasizes the humility of Jesus.
 - ii. He "came not to be ministered unto but to minister." This radically redefines who and what the Son of Man (the Messiah) would be. He is a suffering Messiah and a servant Messiah.
 - iii. Jesus came not to be served but to serve.
 - c. Follow Christ in sacrifice.
 - i. Jesus "came to give His life." No one took it from Him, He willingly gave.
 - ii. He came to "give His life a ransom" – what has been called "the wonderful exchange." Ransom means to deliver by purchase. It is a payment required to release someone from punishment or slavery. We needed a ransom because we had sold ourselves into the bondage of slavery to sin.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ The greatest and best person to ever live and walk on this earth was a humble servant.
- ⇒ We have all been saved and sent to serve. How close does this describe your approach to life?
- ⇒ How do we put off the mind-set of the world and put-on the mind-set of Christ?