

Mark 10:32-52

³² Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to

Him: ³³ “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; ³⁴ and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

³⁶ And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

³⁷ They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

³⁹ They said to Him, “We are able.”

So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared.”

⁴¹ And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. ⁴² 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 slave of all. 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.”

I. Loving Leader

II. Loving Servant

I. Loving Leader

1. **A loving leader leads you upwards, he builds & encourages**

- a. Jesus led the way to up to Jerusalem
 - i. Literally and symbolically
 - ii. Jerusalem sits 2500 ft above sea level

1. always up

- b. When Jesus is leading us, He always leads upward
- c. He wants our eyes on Him
 - i. **Heb 12:2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- d. David understood this fact when he said,
 - i. I will lift up my eyes to the hills. (Ps. 121)
 - ii. **The direction you look is the direction you'll go**
 - iii. This is where change begins to happen

1. By where I give my attention

iv. We watch as He goes to Jerusalem

1. Not to the great temple

2. Not for personal gain

a. He's going to fulfill His mission.

b. This is why He came

e. If you are being drawn upward toward Him today, then your eyes are on Him

i. If you are not drawing close to Him, turn your gaze

2. **A loving leader understands your situation / condition**

a. They were **amazed**

i. because of His courage

b. But they're also **afraid** because He already mentioned twice why He's going to die in Jerusalem

i. Not long before this, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead

- ii. The 12 know how the religious leaders feel about Him
 - iii. They don't fully understand His mission or why He's speaking of death & suffering...
 - iv. They're afraid because following Him means whatever happens to Him, happens to them also
- c. Yet there is something to be said about following despite your fears
 - i. Not knowing what's ahead and moving anyway
- d. **Meg Cabot:** Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the judgment that something is more important than fear; The brave may not live forever but the cautious do not live at all
- e. **Of course Jesus knows their fears**
- f. Our great leader understands our thoughts before we think them

i. All of our ways are before Him

1. Naturally, we'd think He'll take them aside
and speak words of comfort to them

a. Don't worry, it'll all work out

i. It's not as bad as it looks

ii. This too shall pass...

3. A loving leader speaks the truth to them

a. We are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise

- b. He explains the upcoming events in great detail
 - i. Why?
 1. Because truth is what we need
 2. It's what we long for
 - a. It sets us free
- c. How does passage apply to us today?
- d. **We are going up, I'm going to be delivered**
 - i. You're going on this journey with me
 - ii. I'm the one who's paying the price in full
 1. I'm going to take on the sins of the world
 2. I'm going to bring salvation & deliverance
 3. I'm going to set the captives free
 4. I'm going to restore the broken...
 - iii. There will be persecution by associating with Jesus
 1. There is trouble there
 - iv. Taking up your Cross is part of the journey
 1. Denying yourself
 2. Taking up the Cross

3. Following Jesus is the only way to walk with
God

- e. And a thought we may have is
 - i. Perhaps if the 12 chose not to follow Jesus, they may avoid trouble
 - ii. Perhaps if we were not walking with God, we may avoid pain
- f. Truth is, trouble comes to all people**
 - i. It rains on the just and the unjust
 - ii. No one is exempt
- g. Difference here is that this truth about the cross and death is the only way to find real life
 - i. **1 John 5:12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

- h. Jesus said **the Son of man will be betrayed**
 - i. He takes the full impact of persecution & trouble
 - ii. He doesn't avoid the difficult road
 - iii. Although He knew long before exactly what would happen
 - 1. Exactly who would betray Him
 - 2. Who would deny Him
 - 3. Who would forsake Him
 - a. He led them by example
 - iv. Because in this world, we will have tribulation but not to fear, because He overcame the world
 - v. 365 times, we are told not to fear**
 - 1. He took the full brunt of it
- i. This is the 3rd time He explains the Cross to them
 - i. **Mark 8:31** He explains the cross after, who do you say that I am?

- ii. **Mark 9:31** He explains the cross after, casting out the deaf/dumb spirit
- iii. **Mark 10:33** He explains the cross after the rewards of following Him
 - 1. Know me
 - 2. Watch me
 - 3. Follow me
- j. This is a pattern for us to follow
 - i. If we focus on our own condition, it will not change
 - 1. As we gaze into His courage
 - 2. His mission
 - 3. His suffering
 - 4. His patience
 - 5. His sacrifice
 - 6. His resurrection
 - a. It gives us hope that we will also have victory

- k. Keep in mind that in all 3 explanation of the cross, Jesus speaks of death **and** resurrection.
 - i. Many times we focus on the pain and the struggle
 - ii. We often don't pay attention to the glory that follows

II. Loving Servant

1. Loving servant listens (responds, instructs)

- a. They are days away from entering Jerusalem
- b. Perhaps they think this is it, the kingdom reign is moments away
- c. James and John approach Jesus and make a request
- d. **Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask**
 - i. To sit on your right and left

- ii. The root of their request was to get ahead of the competition (**being greater**)
 - iii. Sitting is for when something is done and complete. They just started
- e. The core of their request was greatness **fueled by pride**
- f. They tried to **manipulate** and control the situation into happening
- i. God help us when we try to manipulate situations into happening
 - 1. At home, work, church...
 - ii. Rather, they should have trusted in the mercy and wisdom of God who will bring everyone and everything into total balance and restoration

- g. Our faithfulness to God today will help open the doors of tomorrow
- h. **Matt 20:20**, they brought their mother (Salome)
- i. Our Lord is patient with them and also with us
- j. **As long as we are staying near and not giving up**
 - i. **He'll never give up on us**

2. Loving servant responds

- a. You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
- b. It's a figure of speech
 - i. They think he means literal cup/baptism
 - 1. "We are able"
 - a. Probably thinking of the cups royalty drink from
 - 2. They're clueless

- c. You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared.”

- d. Sure, they would taste a bit of the cup and the suffering, but Jesus drank the fullness

- e. James would die as a Martyr
 - i. John lived in exile which his worst punishment

- f. This request showed they didn't understand the order of the kingdom
 - i. They wanted a crown without a cross,
 - 1. position without persecution

- g. Some may think that Jesus would smite them over the head and speak down at them
 - i. Instead, His response is patient and gentle

- ii. The heart of our Lord is to speak the truth with
Love and tenderness teaching the slow learner

- h. The other 10 were not happy with the 2, probably
because they wanted the same thing

3. Loving servant instructs

- a. 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 slave of all. 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.”

- b. Jesus reminds us that there are only 2 kinds of
kingdoms
 - i. God's kingdom

- ii. World's kingdom

- c. **The rulers of the gentiles lord it over them** / an iron fist
 - i. This is the world system driven by greed, lust & fear...
 - ii. Great men believe they can do anything. They are exempt from following the rules they make...
 - iii. This is not our motive of service
 - iv. Our motive comes from loving God and loving people in appreciating for what has been done for us

 - v. The way up is down

- d. Jesus humbly explains to them that their role is to learn humility from the master
 - 1. We're to operate on God's kingdom

- e. A servant doesn't control or manipulate anything

- i. He simply follows orders when given or does his daily chores without being asked or thanked
 - ii. Our role is not to manipulate any situation with God but to wait on Him trusting in His infinite wisdom and timing

- f. Paul was a bondservant
 - i. **1 Cor 9:19** Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible

- g. We learn this by looking at Jesus who was the perfect model of humility and service

- h. Beginning at an early age, he submitted to His authority
 - i. He served with Joseph as a carpenter
 - ii. He waited for the Father's perfect timing for ministry
 - iii. He trained His disciples

iv. He gave His life willingly

v. He rose victoriously to give us His life

- i. **Luke 12:37** Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them
- j. Jesus gives them not only the attitude they are to have in the kingdom, but also the measurement to know if they are on the right track;

i. humility and service

ii. I need to serve my brothers and sisters in some form with the right attitude

- k. When we get correction from the Lord like the disciples did, we have 2 choices

- i. humble ourselves and learn the important lesson
 - ii. remain stiff necked and become frustrated

- l. Much of the frustration in Christian circles today is for this same reason - wanting to be first

- m. If you want to be great, don't seek prominence, seek Humility, Sincerity, Faith, Service

- n. If we are going to be useful in the body of Christ, then we're to imitate Christ by being humble and serving

- o. We do this by studying the Word of God and close fellowship with one another