

9.6.15 Mark 10:32-45

O. Intro:

*We have been in Mark since January...it is only 16 chapters long but it is like a "little Bible"...as we have gone through it carefully we have dealt with virtually every major theological theme and Christian life application.

*In Mark's gospel we have been able to look at almost every component of systematic theology...Theology, Christology, Anthropology, Epistemology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, Demonology, Eschatology.

*We have also looked at practical theology like...discipleship, evangelism, stewardship, relationships, handling temptations, prayer.

*We have been able to study other important questions...Evil and Suffering, Can we change and if so how?, How do we interpret and apply the Bible? How does the gospel impact culture?

*To understand the Bible and every aspect of life itself...we must understand the gospel.

*On January 4th I said the key verse in the book is Mark 10:45 **"The son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

*We are at that pivotal verse today.

*The coming of Christ is the most important event in human history.

*To study the gospel therefore, it is to enter the most important of all studies.

*Yet it's not a mere study, because unlike "mere history" the gospel is "history with eternal applications."

***This week as I read, I struggled to grasp it as more than words on a page...I talked it through out loud for myself...imagining what it might have been like to be there.**

***It was helpful, so let's do it together.**

Mark 10:32-45

Jesus was determined, walking ahead of the disciples and the larger crowd...unusually quiet, serious look on his normally winsome face. His demeanor confused the disciples and for those who didn't know him as well, they were just afraid....something ominous, important is happening or about to happen.

Finally, Jesus spoke to his closest friends, " Guys, step aside over here...I'm going to tell you what is on my heart and mind. What you have been feeling that has caused confusion and fear... I want to let you into my heart on this. We are going to Jerusalem and there I will be betrayed and given a death sentence by the rulers of our people. They will hand me over to the Romans who will mock me, spit in my face, beat me, and crucify me. Then after three dark days, I will rise from the dead."

The men are silent. Processing. Then the brothers James and John speak up. "Jesus, can we speak to

you, in private."

The other 10 begin to grumble...what are they up to? Why in private? Thought we were a team.

"Jesus, we would like to ask you to do something for us, its important, but just think about it."

"I can't answer you unless you ask a question...what do you want?"

"It may sound selfish, but hear us out...we know you are going to Jerusalem to take over and begin the Kingdom. We think we can help you. We want to be your key guys."

"You guys don't know what you are saying. Didn't you just hear me? Do you know what it will mean to be at my right and left hand when I am being crucified? Can you drink the cup of my suffering, can you endure being immersed in my sacrifice?"

"Yes, we think we can, if that's what it takes."

"Well, you will, that's for sure...but as for seats of honor...its the farthest thing from my mind...and when that times comes...it will be far from your minds as well."

Jesus called them all together and patiently, once again began to instruct them.

"The way of the Roman great ones is to use those under them for their own purposes...the way of the Kingdom is to serve and sacrifice...this is true greatness."

"I am the Messiah, the true heir of all glory and yet I did not come to be served but to serve...do you see this?"

"What's more, I came to serve by giving my life to purchase you out of your slavery...I am going to die for you."

Mark 10:32-45 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.

***It was common for the teacher to walk in front of his students but likely there was more to phrase "leading the way" here than just custom...he was resolute...walking with determined purpose.**

***We see this in the response of those following him...astonishment and fear.**

***Why astonishment from the twelve and fear from the larger group?**

***We don't know but likely it was in his demeanor.**

***They sensed something was happening in the Lord and or was about to happen...and he confirmed this with his words.**

***Words they still failed to comprehend.**

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

*(Mark 8:31, 9:31)...third prediction of his death in three chapters.

*Most detailed one yet...very precise.

*It clear he is "seeing" this in his mind by the way he describes in detail what is in front of him.

*Betrayal, condemnation, given over to the Romans to be mocked, spit on, beaten and killed...then after three days of separation...resurrection."

*With this on his mind its little wonder those around him could sense something serious was afoot.

*Jesus was a perfect leader, he didn't let his emotions control his decisions and he never expressed them inappropriately.

*But Jesus was also perfect in his authenticity...he wouldn't have feared his emotions or tried to hide them either.

*It's common to believe that it's "spiritual" to handle difficult trails with a detached and nonchalant confidence.

*In fact, in Buddhism, the height of spiritual maturity is to cease caring at all...to be emotionally neutral in the face of any and everything life throws at you.

*I still remember the famous images of the Buddhist monks in the Vietnam era or more recently those protesting China's treatment of Tibetan monks.

*These men set themselves on fire and then sat calmly in their self-immolation...detached even as flames destroyed their bodies.

*This may be a human form of spirituality (man's search for meaning) but it has nothing to do with the reality of God and our legitimate hunger for him.

*Dan Allender wrote: "The absence of feelings is often a refusal to face the sorrow of life and hunger for heaven..."

*The Buddha said the "way to eliminate suffering is to eliminate desire."

*The fact is our suffering can point us to the ultimate desire of the human heart...the God who made us.

*Emotions are a normal, important part of this journey.

*Allendar goes on..."The presence of disruptive emotions that feel irrational or out of control is not necessarily a sign of disease, sin, or trauma. Instead, it may be the signal that the heart is struggling with

God. Therefore, we must view the ups and downs of our emotional life not as a problem to be solved, but as a cry to be heard."

*This is not an excuse to give full vent to emotions with no sense of self-control.

*It is, however, a perspective on emotions that is often absent in the church.

*Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross was no stifled stoic...he cried out in grief and agony.

*Here, I think what was confusing and frightening...was that they were experiencing some of what was in the Lord's heart and mind coming out to them as they walked with him.

*Then he opened up and told them in words what they had already been sensing...he had deep, powerful, troubling things on his mind and heart.

*But from this shocking detailed revelation of what he was to come, comes an even more shocking response from two of his friends.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

*Have you ever been baring your very soul to someone and they say something like, "Hey I like this song, turn up the radio!"

*This is similar to what happens here...but worse.

*Jesus is telling them of his impending suffering and death and they jump straight to self-serving posturing.

*This is an amazing lack of situational awareness...Jesus telling them the most solemn, important, fearsome news...and they respond with a request for key staff positions.

*But the Lord is gracious...I would have become angry or sullen...he uses it as opportunity.

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

*This parallels 9:30-37.

*In that passage the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest immediately following the Lord's prediction of his own death.

*Here they basically ask Jesus for a blank check.

*"We want you to do whatever we ask."

*What kind of statement is that anyway? Who would do that?

*Of course Jesus says; "What is it you want?"

*What they want is to be placed in key positions of power in his coming kingdom.

*They seem to have grasped that he is the Messiah...but somehow still cannot get their minds around what this means.

*Jesus says "you have no idea what you asking."

*Ironically the ones who will be on his right and left when he is paying the ransom for us...will be criminals dying on their own crosses.

*Jesus is patient and persistent in his instruction...

*"You have no idea how unimportant that question is...it doesn't matter now, because it won't matter then."

*"My attention is fully on faithfulness...the kind of stuff you guys are concerned with, I leave with my Father."

*The question is not one of social status but the status of your hearts...

*"Can you drink the cup and experience the baptism that awaits me?"

*Cup in the Bible is often used to describe the wrath of God on evil.

*Baptism is "immersion"...immersion in suffering, sacrifice.

*Their response was..."We can."

*We don't know if this was pure bravado...or if they were suddenly sobered and actually believed they were ready for whatever was next.

*The fact is, they were not ready for what would come.

*Jesus knows what is coming and so he says...my paraphrase:

*"You will in fact drink this cup and experience an immersion in sacrifice but in terms of places of privilege...that is not my concern, and it should not be yours."

*"You think the big questions are "will I be important, will I have significance"
-And you believe that will come with some appointed position.

*"That is the wrong question, asked from the wrong perspective."

*Your significance comes from relationship with me...living your purpose.

*Then the other ten show they are on the same page with these two rather than with Jesus.

*When they catch wind of what is being discussed...they are "indignant" "offended"

*"How dare they!" "Who are they!"?

*Put yourself in the shoes of Jesus...these guys are his only plan to change the world.

*If you ever wonder if Jesus is losing patience with you in your own failings...remember these guys...the answer is "no, he's not."

*He may very well instruct us through challenges, or by allowing us to suffer our own consequences...but he is "long-suffering"...patient.

*Jesus instructs them, yet again.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

*What is common, normal in the general culture is that "great ones" Lord over those under them.

*They use those under them for their own selfish ends.

*Not so in the Kingdom of God...Jesus though he was the greatest one...the one who justly deserved to be served...came to serve.

*How did he come to serve?

*Not by feeding people, healing people, setting some kind of great example...those things were to direct our attention to his real purpose.

*He came to "Give his life as a ransom for many."

*The Greek construction here "For many" is not "some" as opposed to "all".

*The idea is a single life for many lives.

*He takes the place of the many...substitutionary atonement.

*Three times in three chapters Jesus tells them he will die.

*For the first time he tells them why...v. 45

*"I will give my life to pay the ransom for yours."

*Keller wrote..."That sets him apart from the founder of every other major religion. Their purpose was to live and be an example; Jesus's purpose was to die and be a sacrifice."

*His purpose, why he came...was not be served (which he had every right to) but to serve.

*Ransom: We only know of this work in relationship to a kidnapping. The word means to buy the freedom of a slave or a prisoner.

***Many struggle with the Christian idea of the cross.**

*I've heard it called "Cosmic child abuse"

*"Barbaric, insulting, ignorant."

*Sounds to some like ancient savage practices done to appease the gods by sacrificing innocents.

*One of the big questions people have is...

*Why doesn't God just forgive everybody? Why the need for Jesus to suffer and die?

*He asks us to forgive...why doesn't he do the same?

*When we forgive there is always a cost.

*If you break crash my car and I forgive you...and I don't make you pay...there is a cost to me.

*If you break my heart and I forgive you... there is a cost to me.

*There is freedom for me in the end, but there is a cost still.

*But with God, it is much more significant to say "why doesn't he just forgive?"

*John Stott said this about the sacrifice of Jesus.

"God can only do those things which are consistent with His nature. He cannot therefore readily pardon the sinner, because He is a God of infinite justice. But neither can He readily punish the sinner, because He is also a God of infinite mercy. Here, then, if we may use human language, was the divine dilemma. How could He pardon the sinner without compromising His justice! How could He judge the sinner without frustrating His love! How in the face of human sin could He be at the same time a God of love and of wrath! How could He both pardon the sinner and punish his sin. How could a righteous God forgive unrighteous men without involving Himself in their unrighteousness!"

"There was only one way. In His infinite justice He would exact the penalty for sin, but in His infinite mercy He would accept the penalty Himself. Only thus could He express and satisfy both His love and His justice. So in the person of His Son Jesus Christ He entered the world which He had made. He identified Himself with man in his need. In the womb of Mary His mother He took upon Him our nature. On the cross of Calvary He took upon Him our sins. He was first 'made flesh'(John 1.14). He was then 'made sin' (2 Corinthians 5.21). In the silence and darkness of those terrible hours on the cross the sins of the whole world,

of every place and of every generation, were laid on Him.

Only Jesus Christ could have thus died for the sins of the world. Why! Because only He was both Man, and sinless, and God. Because He was Man, He could represent Man, and bear the sins of men. Because He was sinless, He had no sins of His own for which atonement needed to be made. Because He was God, His life was of infinite value (so that it could be offered for the sins of all men), and of eternal worth (so that it could be offered for the sins of all time).

*To say why doesn't God just forgive sins is similar to saying..."Why don't our cities and states and nation just forgive crimes against?"

*What would be the result? The destruction of all that is good.

*To ask that of God is to ask him to "stop being holy, to stop being concerned with rebellion against reality itself (which sin is)."

*It is to ask God to leave reality, which of course he cannot do...he is himself ultimate reality.

CONCLUSION:

*Can you recall things in your life that were so important to you, so exciting to think about...but when you obtained or received them it didn't mean as much as you thought it would?

*This has happened to me a number of times.

*What truly matters doesn't change...what matters to us can and often does.

*James and John thought it was an important question to determine who would be in key positions in the coming kingdom.

*This was irrelevant to Jesus...he had left the glory of heaven for the dust of earth...his heart was set on his purpose.

*Jesus tells them the supreme price he is going to pay to purchase their redemption...they ask him about positions of authority and prestige.

*His response..."That's not for me to decide" is in essence..."Do you think I'm concerned with those things? Did you just hear what I said? Do you get the implications of what is coming for me and for you?"

Application:

*Of course the prime application of this passage is the gospel itself.

*Back on January 4 I said "The key verse for the year is Mark 10:45"

*September 6, here we are..."**The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.**"

*Gospel presentation

*Has life turned into a question mark?

*Have you gone in search of answers and that search has brought you here (God has brought you here?)")

*Secondary application

Phil. 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

*Of course we cannot duplicate the ministry of Jesus...he was the Messiah.

*However we can imitate his attitude...that is the point here.

*Jesus' attitude (approach to God, life, others) was evidenced in his humility...that led to sacrificial obedience and our redemption.

*This action of redemption cannot be replicated but the attitude of the redeemer can be.

***2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

*This is not a box to be checked.

*This is your, my opportunity to live life in line with its design.

*It is a fundamental operating principle for life as it was intended.

*There is no joy outside of this "attitude of Jesus"

*Relationships don't work, and often don't last without it.

*Life is robbed of fun, purpose, meaning without it.

*This attitude or approach to life of Christ is foundational for resiliency as we move into the future...the self-serving person is non-resilient...they do not bounce back, they simple break when trouble takes them down.

*To become more like Jesus has some very specific applications.

*What was he like? He was a "put the interests of others first" person.

*What will it look like for me to become more like Christ? I will more consistently put others first...I will less often make life about me.

*This is the path to keeping our relationships out of the "soap opera" modes that are so common.

*If you ever wonder "Why there is so much drama in so many relationships?"

*Because somebody in the relationship, possibly everybody...is making life about "me" too much of the time.

*The way out is to "**Stop**"

*"Its not that simple, Terry."

*Yes, it actually is...its not easy, but it really is that simple.

*Stop making life about you...have the Mind of Christ (the attitude of Christ).

*Our attitude is our approach to life.

*Like a plane's "attitude" is its orientation to the earth...

*Our orientation (attitude) towards others must be that of Christ's.

*This is something that can be, should be a growing trend in our lives...it will not come to us...we must go to it.

*The ESV says "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

*"Go get what Jesus has given you."

*Choose to keep on having this mind...the mind of Christ among your relationships with each other.

10:45 "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many."

*You and I will not give our lives to redeem anyone...we can, however, live with the approach to others that the redeemer had.

*This is a practical application of the reality of our own redemption.

*If you are making life about you, if you are causing unnecessary drama in your relationships, if you are perpetually petty, and wounded, and offended...stop.

*If you mull over all that people have done to you or not done for you...stop.

*You can, you must...you are making yourself unnecessarily miserable, as well as the people God has given you to love.

*Of course we all have good reason to be offended, wounded, unhappy, self-serving...but we have a better reason to act otherwise.

*By the grace of God & for the glory of Christ...let's stop making it about us.

SMALL GROUP NOTES

9.6.15

Mark 10:32-45

Intro:

*Discuss the passage below as if you were remembering it rather than reading it.

*Or discuss it as if you were hearing it told to you by a friend and ask questions that you would normally ask in that situation.

*Discuss: What are some ways we can reframe our thinking as we read the Bible in order to more consistently read it as "real"?

Read:

Mark 10:32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. 33 "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and 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." 35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." 36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. 37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." 38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" 39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, 40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." 41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must 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 as a ransom for many."

Discuss:

1. Why do you think the people with Jesus were "astonished" or "afraid"?
2. Jesus knew in great detail what was going to happen to him. Many people think they would like to know the future but how would it actually feel to know the exact details and timing of your own death? What challenges would that present?
3. Let's give John and James the benefit of the doubt. What are some "good" reasons (in their minds at least) they might have asked Jesus for key positions in his kingdom?
4. Discuss a time when you were excited about something in the future but when you actually arrived there or achieved that goal it didn't mean as much to you as you initially believed it would? Why do you think that was true?
5. Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross? Why couldn't God just forgive us without this happening?

Apply:

1. Read and think about Mark 10:45 for a few minutes.

"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many."

2. Read Phil 2:3-8

Phil. 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

*Think through some specifics regarding how having the attitude (approach to others) that Jesus had would look in your life this week.

*Important: This is not just "trying harder" this is "thinking differently" about the kind of life God has for you.

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Mark 10:45

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