

Theme: Disciples must follow Jesus in rejecting the world's grasping for power, choosing to live as servants, willing to be mistreated and suffer, trusting God the Father to vindicate His followers in His own time.

## I. The Way of the World - Crushing Power!

- A. "A man's greatest work is to break his enemies, to drive them before him, to take from them all the things that have been theirs, to hear the weeping of those who cherished them, to take their horses between his knees and to press in his arms the most desirable of their women." - Genghis Khan
- B. What is best in life? To crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and to hear the lamentations of their women. - Conan the Barbarian
- C. And when you kill a man you're a murderer. Kill many, and you're a conqueror. Kill them all... ooh, oh, you're a God! (Megadeth, Captive Honour)
- D. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. - Jesus Christ (Mark 10:43-44)
- E. This is a different type of kingdom - and King!

## II. Jesus Predicts His Death

- A. Destination Jerusalem!  
They were **on their way up to Jerusalem**, with Jesus leading the way... Mark 10:32
  - 1. For the first time, Mark says where Jesus is going!
  - 2. This is the first time in Mark that Jesus goes to Jerusalem
    - a. John lets us know He went several times
    - b. Mark does not tell us this so it is climactic

- c. The King is going to His city; how will it respond?
  - d. Surely the City will respond to her King!  
"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.  
Isaiah 59:20
- 3. The people of Jerusalem have been mixed in their response up to this point  
When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. Mark 3:8
  - a. Many common people have warmly responded to Jesus during His ministry time.
  - b. Perhaps they will receive Him as King!  
And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."  
Mark 3:22
    - a. The leaders have been hostile to Jesus!
    - b. They think He is the King of Darkness!
- 4. Jesus the King is leading - a triumphal arrival?  
They were on their way up to Jerusalem, **with Jesus leading the way**... Mark 10:32
  - a. Whatever the response will be, Jesus is boldly going
  - b. As the Servant of the Lord, His face is set like flint  
Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. Isaiah 50:7
  - c. Like Jesus, we know the outcome, but Jesus was not dragging His feet! He was resolutely set out to obey the Father, no matter the cost!

B. Jesus predicts His death for the 3rd time

Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. <sup>33</sup> “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, <sup>34</sup> who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.” Mark 10:32-34

1. Again - the third time Jesus predicts His rejection, death, and resurrection
2. This is the most detailed prediction (William Lane)

Topic	Mark 8:31	Mark 9:31	Mark 10:33-34	Passion Narrative
Delivered to the chief priests & scribes	-	(X)	X	Mark 14:53
Sentenced to death	(X)	-	X	Mark 14:64
Delivered to the Romans	-	-	X	Mark 15:1, 10
Mocked, spit upon, scourged	-	-	X	Mark 14:65; 15:15-20
Executed	X	X	X	Mark 15:20-39,44
Resurrected	X	X	X	Mark 16:1-8

- a. Jesus is unveiling all that will happen
- b. He will be betrayed, sentenced to death, delivered to the Romans, mocked, spit upon, scourged, executed - and then resurrected!
3. Far from receiving the King, Jerusalem will conspire with the hated Romans to have the King killed!
4. This King is marching, not to crush His enemies, but to be put to death by them!

III. A Kingdom of Servants

A. A tone-deaf, horrible response - again!

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” <sup>36</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” Mark 10:35-37

1. No understanding, compassion, or questions!
2. Just raw ambition for power and glory!
3. “You are going to establish your kingdom - make us the two most important people in it!”

B. A lack of understanding real discipleship!

“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?” <sup>39</sup> “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, <sup>40</sup> 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.” Mark 10:38-40

1. You don’t know what you are asking!
2. The ones on my right and left are going to be killed! They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. Mark 15:27
  - a. The only other use of “on your right and left” in Mark
  - b. To be enthroned with this King is to be crucified with Him!
3. The baptism and cup of Jesus - suffering and death!

- a. Ultimately the baptism and cup Jesus will receive is bearing the wrath of God for all the sin of humanity - no one could do this but Him! (Mark 14:36)
  - b. We will look at this in detail next week
4. The disciples baptism & cup - suffering & death
- a. You will get a baptism and a cup - of suffering!
  - b. James is martyred, John is exiled and punished
  - c. Not the cup and baptism they were anticipating!
5. The Father will determine who sits in glory!

### C. The way of the Kingdom!

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> 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." Mark 10:41-45

1. The other 10 are furious - for the wrong reason!
2. Jesus has to teach them on the way of the Kingdom again!
3. This is the same problem he addressed in Mark 9:31ff - the last time He told them He would die!
4. This whole idea of the way of servanthood has to be repeated because it goes against our very nature and the way of the world!

5. Jesus describes the way of the world (confirmed by Genghis Khan and Conan the Barbarian - and all human history!)
6. The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of servants and slaves!
  - a. v43 - The servant is greatest - they probably choked on these words!
  - b. v44 - Be a slave - this is even worse!
7. The way of the Kingdom is diametrically opposed to the way of the world!
8. The basis is found in verse 45: this is the way of Jesus! The Eternal Lord of All came as a servant - and His followers must be servants too! (We will look at this verse in depth next week)
  - a. We are not servants and slaves because it is the way of the world but because it is the way of Jesus!
  - b. We are not servants and slaves because it works in this world but because it is the way of Jesus!
  - c. To be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, is to walk the way He walked. He came as a servant and was willing to be mistreated and abused, trusting God the Father to vindicate Him in His own time.
9. Disciples must follow Jesus in rejecting the world's grasping for power, choosing to live as servants, willing to be mistreated and suffer, trusting God the Father to vindicate His followers in His own time.

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. Following Jesus the Servant

1. This is a hard saying of Jesus - which is why the disciples were so slow to learn!
2. It is easier to live like Genghis Khan or Conan the Barbarian than like like the Servant!
3. Steps to cultivating servanthood
  - a. Admit the way of the world comes naturally to me!
  - b. Realize Satan always tempts me to the way of power and avoiding the way of the cross and servanthood!
  - c. Preach the Gospel to myself every day, to remind me of all the ways Jesus has served me!
  - d. Regularly meditate on eternity to remind myself of where true life and true rewards are found!
  - e. Look for opportunities to serve in my family, close friends, and church.
  - f. Agree to regular ongoing service opportunities to cultivate a practice of serving even when it is inconvenient or I do not feel like it.

### B. The Table of the Servant King

1. Here we are reminded of the Gospel and eternity!
2. Here we are reminded of how Jesus has served and continues to serve us!
3. Philippians 2:3-11 corporate reading
4. Come and receive from your Servant King!

## Lessons for Disciples - A Kingdom of Servants

Mark 10:32-45

May 12, 2024

Communion

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Teaching keywords: Kingdom of God; discipleship; Christology; cross; service

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

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. <sup>33</sup> “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, <sup>34</sup> who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

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Mark 10:32-45