

Intro

- ~ Doug Nichols story of serving
- ~ The disciples miss the big picture here. The big picture is Christ has told them he's going to suffer by means of mocking, scourging, humiliation and death. Yet, the example of the disciples missing the point here is that this all went right over their heads and they begin to have a discussion over who is the greatest.
- ~ This isn't the first time Mark tells us of such an incident. Mark 9:30-37.

Outline

- 1 Preparation – Jesus foretells his disciples about his sufferings
- 2 Preoccupation – The disciples were preoccupied with their own greatness
- 3 Presentation – Jesus illustrates the way to greatness by giving his life as a ransom

Text

1 Preparation – Jesus foretells his disciples about his sufferings

- ~ The most important event in human history is the death of Christ followed up by his resurrection
- ~ The most important thing is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
- ~ Christ's sacrifice is bookends for our text (Christ foretells it and he's an example of it)
- ~ Christ's sacrifice deals with our distraction of self-exaltation, self-promotion & self-preservation
- ~ It's the distraction of self that causes us to stop looking and focusing and serving Christ
- ~ What importance do we place on Christ?
- ~ Is his sacrifice the most important thing to us
- ~ Are we willing to suffer, bear reproach and suffer shame for the cross of Christ?
- ~ Christ speaks of taking up your cross which means identifying with Christ's cross
- ~ I fear the church in general nowadays is Christian in name only because it hasn't had to pay a price for identifying with the cross of Christ
- ~ The early church was pure spiritually because a price was paid for identify with Christ
- ~ Preparation – Jesus foretells his disciples about his sufferings

2 Preoccupation – The disciples were preoccupied with their own greatness

- ~ Disciples were preoccupied with themselves
- ~ We like the disciples can become preoccupied with our own greatness, achievements,
- ~ While it's not wrong to want to be great and accomplish great achievements but do we do this at the peril of forsaking Christ, his will, his word, his way in our lives. Maybe God will give us things as we live a life of humble obedience
- ~ If in the course of taking up our cross, identifying with Christ – he gives great blessings then enjoy them
- ~ *Prov 10:22 the blessing of the Lord makes rich and he adds no sorrow to it*
- ~ The disciples saw the gentile Roman rulers exercise great power and authority over people and this looks attractive to the disciples. The disciples then aspire to this kind of greatness
- ~ We know this to be true because Jesus in v42 Jesus responds to them
- ~ It's easy to see an authority figure and see the benefits entitled to someone in authority and think I should have that. But we know with authority also comes the responsibility of ruling well and accountability
- ~ *James 3:1 my brethren be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation*
- ~ Optical Illusion - images that can be deceptive or misleading to our brains. The information gathered by the eye is processed by the brain, creating a perception that in reality, does not match the true image.
- ~ We see many optical illusions – the illusion that world, our flesh and the devil puts before us and within us. These illusions tell us that the cross and being a servant isn't important
- ~ The illusion before the disciples is that greatness equates with ruling and having authority
- ~ V42 – Jesus calls them to himself and addresses their thinking
- ~ We live in a world where politics rule. Where I'm sure many set out to make a difference in their community and state many undoubtedly get changed by the desire to rule and instead of making a difference for the better push their own political agenda instead of what's best for their community and states
- ~ Even in a church this can happen – pastors and those in authority can take on dictatorial spirits
- ~ Humility is needed by those who have positions of authority so that their authority doesn't corrupt them

~ You've heard is said, "Absolute authority corrupts absolutely."

~ The person who will be great will be a servant

~ Paul often called himself a servant (Rom 1:1 [= the first description Paul uses of himself]; 1 Cor 9:19; Gal 1:10; Titus 1:10)

- Servant (1401 doulos) a slave, it has the idea of subjection, devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests. Paul's life belonged not to himself but to Christ. Paul uses this word of Christ in Phil 2:7

~ Moses was a servant (Heb 3:5; Rev 15:3)

~ James calls himself a servant of God and Jesus Christ (James 1:1)

~ Peter calls himself a servant (2 Peter 1:1)

~ Jude calls himself a servant (Jude 1)

~ The apostle John calls himself a servant (Rev 1:1)

~ If these great men were servants is it ok for me to be a servant? YES

~ To make the case even stronger – Paul tells Jesus took on the form of a servant (Phil 2:7)

~ To be a servant is the way to greatness

~ V43 - But it shall not be so among you = don't follow their example, follow mine

~ Jesus is going to introduce an opposing idea to what they were thinking

~ in V43,44 Jesus will teach two truths that oppose a worldly view of greatness and how it's achieved

- Notice that Jesus personalize this by using you, you, your, you
 1. Whosoever will be the greatest will be servant of all
 - a. Greatest = mega
 - b. Minister (1249 diakonos) To run errands, an attendant, a waiter (at table or in other menial duties), a household servant. We get our word deacon from this Greek word.
 2. Whosoever will be the chiefs will be servant of all
 - a. Chiefest (4413 protos) foremost (in time, place, order or importance)
 - b. Servant (1401 doulos) Slave, subjection, subserviency, they weren't their own master

~ He that will be great will be your servant and he that will be chief will be a servant

~ Why is this important? We live in a world that jockeys for power, control, and greatness at the expense of ignoring who Jesus is and what he has done on the cross

~ Biblical Greatness as defined by Jesus is being a servant

~ Preoccupation – The disciples were preoccupied with their own greatness

3 Presentation – Jesus illustrates the way to greatness by giving his life as a ransom

~ Jesus not only teaches us but is the living example of the truths he teaches

~ For even (Greek word Kai has the idea of accumulation) All this pointing to accumulative example Jesus is

~ Even the Son of Man (Jesus) came to be and do something different than the word – be a ministering servant

~ Jesus didn't come to be ministered to (1247 diakoneo). This is the verb form of the noun minister in v43.

~ Jesus will be the one who run errands, an attendant, one who waits on others, a household servant

~ He came not to receive the benefits of being served but to perform the task of an attendant

~ He exemplified this truth by washing disciples feet (Jn 13), healing the blind-maim-deaf, forgiving sins, feeding, ministering to others when he was exhausted, taught, raised a man dead daughter, cast out demons

~ He's presented himself to be the example of what he already said in V33,34 – he'll give his life

~ His life will be a ransom (3083 Lutron = to loosen with a redemptive price)

Conclusion

~ The disciples walked with Jesus, heard him and SAW him too

~ Notice the following verses (v46-52) Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus and he follows Jesus in the way

~ We need to see Jesus clearly and a servant in our families, church, neighborhood (Scott books), work

~ What are objections to being a servant - It's not cool, convenient, practical, humiliating, hard, perception, we've been hurt in the past, discouraged, we're not good enough

~ People will appreciate us being servants with a humble heart. It'll attract others to our life which is about Christ

~ This world needs to be loved by godly servants

~ In Acts 27,28 Paul was shipwrecked. He didn't die from snake bite, healed a man but he picked up sticks for fire

~ These same disciples turned the world upside down. They took the gospel to their world

~ As we serve Christ with a servant's heart we'll serve others. We're not worthy but we get to serve almighty God