

Quarter Three: The Book of Mark

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Lesson 8—Teaching Disciples: Part II

Wednesday: Can You Drink My Cup?

August 21, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Teaching Disciples: Part I”
 - Mark 8 & 9 – transition from “Who Is Jesus?” to “Where Is He Going?”
 - Bookends: healing of blind men
 - Middle: predictions of the cross followed by discipleship teachings
- **This Week:** “Teaching Disciples: Part II” (Mark 10)
 - Teachings on what it means to follow Jesus – marriage, children, finances, & reward & cost of discipleship
 - Closing bookend of healing of blind man
 - Leading up to the Cross

Memory Text: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** God’s Plan for Marriage (James)
 - Mark 10:1 – 12 – of marriage & divorce
- 2. **Monday:** Jesus and Children (John D)
 - Mark 10:13 – 16 – how Jesus valued & cared for children
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Best Investment (Danny)
 - Mark 10:17 – 31 – the rich young ruler; seduction of wealth & Whom to seek first
- 4. **Wednesday:** Can You Drink My Cup? (Jill)
 - Mark 10:32 – 45 – 3rd prediction of the cross; James & John’s request to be next to Christ in the coming kingdom; what true leadership is (purpose of power)
- 5. **Thursday:** ‘What Do You Want Me to Do for You?’
 - Mark 10:46 – 52 – healing of blind Bartimaeus

Can You Drink My Cup?

Mark 10:32 – 45

- Threefold Lesson & 9 takeaways from Jesus’ teaching on service (Mark 10:32 – 35)
 - The Coming Cross
 - The Cup of Suffering
 - The Purpose of Power
- **The Coming Cross**
 - 3 predictions of the Cross, followed by teachings on discipleship
 - Since Peter’s confession at Caesarea Philippi
 - “You are the Christ”
 - Turning point of the book (Who is Jesus? / Where is He going?)
 - Each prediction = true nature of His messiahship

- Not one of political & kingly power
 - One of suffering & death
 - Disciples did not understand
 - On the way to Jerusalem (for His death)
 - Jesus seeking to prepare them
 - Mark 10:33, 34 – “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.”
 - Could it have been any easier to understand?
 - Jesus have been any more plain?
 - Luke 18 – “they understood none of these things”
 - **Takeaway #1: Truth is hard to understand, when your heart is unprepared to receive it**
 - When truth
 - Isn’t what you want to hear
 - Cuts against the natural heart
 - Goes against what you’ve been taught / tradition of your church
 - It becomes easy to
 - Dismiss it
 - Rationalize it away
 - Ignore it
 - Over spiritualize it
 - Pretend it doesn’t exist
 - The Coming Cross
- **The cup of suffering**
 - Mark 10:35 – “Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.’”
 - Apparent discrepancy in Word (Matthew says the mom asked)
 - DA says “together, the mother and her sons came to Jesus”
 - Synoptic gospels – slight variations
 - Proof of validity of gospels (if a lie, would have compared stories to ensure identical)
 - *different angle of same accident
 - Mark 10:36 – “And He said to them, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’”
 - *Jill as secretary to Danny – “What do you think?”
 - Freedom of expression; encouragement to think for yourself
 - **Takeaway #2: Love invites us to articulate our desires**
 - Ask & it shall be given you
 - Mark 10:37 – “They said to Him, ‘Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.’”
 - **Takeaway #3: Self appears, even in ministry**

- Entirely selfish request?
 - No – had left all to follow Jesus
 - But self was interwoven
 - Wanted highest place in His kingdom
 - We think we're serving God with altruistic motives
 - Betterment of humanity
 - Help others
- Mark 10:38 – “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?’”
 - Drink His cup = symbolic cup (Lord’s Supper) & the cup of suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane & on the Cross
 - Father – let this cup pass from Me
 - Baptized with His baptism = death & burial (compare events from Mark 15 with His baptism in Mark 1)
 - Two thieves crucified on His right and on His left
 - Jesus does not rebuke their request: rather He seeks to deepen & purify their love
 - **Takeaway #4: Love seeks the betterment of others**
 - He could have chastised them / scolded
 - He sought to grow them
 - DA, p. 548 – “He will not rebuke, but deepen and purify.”
- Mark 10:39a – “They said to Him, ‘We are able.’...”
 - **Takeaway #5: Self is blind**
 - No awareness of their request or their pride / selfishness
 - No awareness of the depth of their request
 - Think of ourselves more highly than we ought
 - Lack of understanding of what it meant
- Mark 10:39b – “...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;’”
 - James = first apostle to be killed with the sword
 - John = last apostle alive: tortured, endured reproach, criticism, persecution
- Mark 10:40 – “ ‘ 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.’”
 - Position is not bestowed arbitrarily
 - It is not gained through favoritism
 - It is not earned
 - **Takeaway #6: Position is the result of character**
- **The Purpose of Power**
 - Mark 10:41 – “And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.”
 - **Takeaway #7: Self is easily jealous**
 - Easiest way to tell if there is self if we are jealous of others

- *why did they get that position?
- Mark 10:42, 43 – “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.’”
 - Gentile rulers use power for personal advantage
 - Higher classes were to think, decide, enjoy & rule
 - Lower classes were to obey & serve
 - In God’s kingdom, power is always used to uplift & bless others
 - **Takeaway #8: Love seeks to help and bless others**
 - DA, p. 549 – “The one who stands nearest to Christ will be he who on earth has drunk most deeply of the spirit of His self-sacrificing love...”
- Mark 10:45 – “For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - Ransom = Gk, “price of release” = a slave market word; represents the payment made for setting a slave free
 - Jesus bought us back (released /ransomed) us from the slavery of sin
 - The cost of breaking our bondage was the life of Jesus
 - His substitutionary death earned my freedom
 - **Takeaway #9: The heart of true greatness is not just service, but sacrifice**
 - How is God calling you to give, to serve, to sacrifice as a leader?
- **9 takeaways from teaching on service**
 - #1: Truth is hard to understand, when your heart is unprepared to receive it
 - #2: Love invites us to articulate our desires
 - #3: Self appears, even in ministry
 - #4: Love seeks the betterment of others
 - #5: Self is blind
 - #6: Position is the result of character
 - #7: Self is easily jealous
 - #8: Love seeks to help and bless others
 - #9: The heart of true greatness is not just service, but sacrifice