

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**
TEXT: **Mark 10:32-45** TITLE: **Sent to Serve**

Who has hiked Mission Peak? It's miserable, not much to see on the way, but the summit is worth it!

Jesus & His followers are on a journey up to Jerusalem-

Some see it as an ascension for self-glory; but for Jesus, it's a journey downward, into suffering & sacrifice

Mark 10:32-34 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them.

The disciples were astonished, but those who followed him were afraid.

'Astonished' - Could the 12 be beginning to see the weight of this journey?

'Afraid' - the opposition is growing & Jesus is marching into the lion's den

Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him.

³³ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles,

³⁴ and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days."

'Jesus was walking ahead'... - **Isaiah 50:7** *'I have set my face like flint'* - He is determined to endure

When Jesus set His face to the cross nothing could deter Him from turning aside

This has profound implications for you and me-

1. It tells us He didn't need us to persuade Him or convince Him, or bargain with Him to save us

What would resolve the Son of Man to march ahead? Love.

Love for the Father- to carry out His redemptive mission to gather lost, sinful souls.

Love for you and I- to go where none could go to achieve what none could do,
for those whom no one else would dare do it for

Remember this when you feel like He's ready to give up on you-

You didn't convince Him to do it then, you can't convince Him to leave you now- He walked ahead!

2. It shows us that Jesus' march fuels the motivation for us to march onward

Living for Christ in an anti-Christ world is like swimming against the current- you feel it right?

When temptation calls your name, when you want to get even, when you want to give in,
what will keep you going in your march?HIS!

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, ² keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see his banner go!*

And so He marches onward, and so do we-

Three times Jesus has predicted the things that are about to happen. And each time, the details grow grimmer. The first time it's simply announced. The second adds a detail of betrayal. Now a detail of mocking and torture.

Every time in the book of Mark that Jesus predicts His death, it is followed by the disciples saying something foolish, and a lesson from Jesus on what it means to follow Him.

Mark 10:35-36 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you.” ³⁶ “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked them.

If you read ahead to the next passage, this serves as a contrast to the blind man-

‘Have mercy on me Son of David...I want to see!’

Mark 10:37 They answered him, “Allow us to sit at your right and at your left in your glory.”

They don’t ask to see, they want to be seen

They’re erroneous ideas about what the mission of Jesus was had them salivating at the potential for power

Mark 10:38 Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

The cup of wine- common metaphor for the wrath of God’s judgment upon sin and rebellion

Baptism- to be completely submerged, overwhelmed. It expresses Jesus’ solidarity with sinful people and His willingness to assume the burden of the judgment of God against sin.

Mark 10:39-41 “We are able,” they told him. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. ⁴⁰ But to sit at my right or left is not mine to give; instead, it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹ When the ten disciples heard this, they began to be indignant with James and John.

This passage is striking for several reasons:

- **Who** makes the request for greatness- 2 of the inner 3
- **What** the nature of the request is- A selfish prayer “*do our will*”; contrast 2 Jesus: “*not my will but Yours*”
- **When** the request is made- immediately following Jesus’ detailed prediction of His fate in Jerusalem
It reeks of ignorance and arrogance. Did they even hear what He said?

The other 10 aren’t indignant because of the insensitivity of these 2, but because they are passed over

There is irony to be found here as well- they ask to be reserved a place at Jesus’ right and left in glory

Jesus is marching to the cross- when He is lifted high on that cross, the two reserved spots to His right & left will be for criminals/ murderers/ sinners

They don’t understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus, though they think they do (v39)

But they will find out what it means to share in the sufferings of Christ-

James will be beheaded by Herod;

John will be exiled & confined to the prison island of Patmos

Spurgeon- “You cannot be Christ’s servant if you are not willing to follow him, cross and all.

What do you crave? A crown? Then it must be a crown of thorns if you are to be like him.

Do you want to be lifted up? So you shall, but it will be upon a cross.”

Before we are quick to judge the two brothers anymore, we should recognize that far too often, we are them.

Making selfish requests, for selfish motivations, at improper times.

Jesus doesn’t rebuke them for seeking to be greatness, but He does redefine what greatness means-

Mark 10:42-44 Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them.

⁴³ But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all.

They have taken their model from the world powers; but the way of Jesus is self-giving service

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. ⁴Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

Society teaches: the path to greatness is achieved by self-serving aspiration

Jesus teaches: the path to greatness is achieved by self-giving service

In every sphere of life: in marriage, in the home, in the workplace (are you a servant?)

Notice the fuel Jesus gives for this kind of living- His own example-

Mark 10:45 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.”

As Jesus was sent to serve, we are sent to serve

David E Garland- *“The only way that disciples can possibly live up to Jesus’ demands is to realize that he has gone before them, broken through, and cleared the way for others to follow.”*

But there is far more to be said of this one verse!

v45 is the claim that separates Christianity from every other religion in the world

Jesus is not just our example in service; He is our ransom for salvation!

WE NEED TO GRASP THE WEIGHT OF THIS CLAIM THAT WAS JUST MADE!

If any man in all of history ought to have been served hand-and-foot, it is Jesus!

And yet, the highest person took the lowest place

JESUS! Precious Jesus- the crown of Heaven- the God made flesh- the perfect holy One

The author of life.....gave His life! For who?????

Sinners- scoffers- people like you and me,

who aren’t worth two pennies when placed next to the glorious Son of God!

Do you feel it? The high cost of sin; The Deep wells of His love!

Isaiah 50:5-6 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn back.

⁶I gave my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who tore out my beard.

I did not hide my face from scorn and spitting.

Isaiah 53:4-6 Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains;

but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities;

punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.

⁶We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way;

and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all.

Don’t mistake what Jesus is saying- The ransom wasn’t paid to satan- the only thing he got was defeat;

The ransom speaks of our debt for our unrighteousness which was owed to God-

Isaiah 53:10-12 Yet the Lord was pleased to crush him severely.

When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the Lord’s pleasure will be accomplished. ¹¹After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied.

By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities.
¹²Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil,
because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels;
yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

Jesus was not tricked or deceived to go to Jerusalem; He was inflexible in His determination.
He knew what awaited, and still, He led the march onward.

Can you picture it? Every step brings Him closer to His suffering, closer to the cross,
closer to carrying the sins of the world.

Jesus was not a victim who had His life taken; He is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for me!

He wasn't a victim, or a casualty- He was a willing sacrifice

John 10:18-17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

We must NEVER become desensitized and numb to this wonderful truth!

That Jesus, being God, worthy of all honor and glory, and knowing every shameful detail of your life,
would look upon us and our fallen state....

and that His impulse would be to dive into the depths of our guilt headfirst!

Jesus loves you. The Father loves you. The Spirit of God loves you.

He is loving you RIGHT NOW

If you ever doubt this, think of Him marching, ahead of the group, towards the cross.

I can't help but wonder, if on that walk, He thought of me??? In my sin. In my rebellion.

Let His march be your motivation

to keep following; to keep dying to self; to hate sin all the more; to love Him all the better

Let His march be your mandate

To serve others, as He served you

1 John 3:16 This is how we have come to know love:

He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

BULPEN-

James- **Acts 12:1-2** About that time King Herod violently attacked some who belonged to the church, ²and he executed James, John's brother, with the sword.

John- **Revelation 1:9** I, John, your brother and partner in the affliction, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

V37 Never mind that Jesus has previously told the apostles they will sit on thrones to judge Israel

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

... but that was not enough for James and John

1 Peter 1:18-19 For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.

Son of Man- **Daniel 7:13**

Psalms 49:6-9 They trust in their wealth and boast of their abundant riches.

⁷Yet these cannot redeem a person or pay his ransom to God—

⁸since the price of redeeming him is too costly, one should forever stop trying—

⁹so that he may live forever and not see the Pit.

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a ...You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought at a price....