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| 1  Mark 10:32-52 Sermon Outline  10/01/23  “True Greatness”  INTRO:  -Humility is a rare virtue seen in society.  -In fact, in the Greco-Roman world, humility was so looked down upon that it almost acted as if it didn’t exist.  -It surely wasn’t in the framework of Greco-Roman ethics  -Of the 147 pithy maxims of the Delphi Canon from the 6th Century BC, which the Greeks considered the sum and substance of the ethical life, there is no mention of the theme of, let alone with very word “humility”  -The ancient Greeks would have been shocked to hear of Moses’ life and his humility  Remember Moses? Called the “meekest man on earth”  Came down from Mt. Sinai to only see debauch./idol. | 2  God became so furious that he was going to wipe them all out  God was going to start over again and bring forth a nation from Moses  Moses interceded  “Don’t forget your covenant, remember your people”  So humble that in Ex. 32:32 he was willing to give up his own salvation in exchange for salvation of Israel  MAIN POINT:  Moses displayed some greatness in humility, but in today’s passage we will the greatest display of greatness in our Lord  BODY:  Jesus goes out on road to Jerusalem  Jesus goes “ahead of them” |
| 3  Third passion prediction in Matt. 20:17-19  and Luke 18:31-34 leaves out detail that Jesus “leads the way”  Mark includes it emphasizing that despite suffering and death, Jesus is dead set on accomplishing mission  Is. 50:7  Jesus set His face like “flint” in regard to redemptive plan  -Disciples are “amazed”  -crowds are “fearful”  Natural to fear your own impending death or the death of others  But Jesus did not have that fear  Sure he feared separation he would feel from the Father because He has never experienced bearing the sins of humanity upon Himself but not fear of death… | 4  Ps. 16  Confidence that “you will not abandon my soul to Sheol”  Confidence  Jn. 12:27  “Now My soul has become dismayed; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”  V. 33 But Jesus takes aside disciples for third time on suffering and death  This time he will give full revelation on what is to come  V. 35 (read v. 35-40) Amazingly James and John comes to Jesus and asks Him this question  James and John = Sons of Thunder = fiery temper |
| 5  “Whatever they ask of Him”  -very child-like  -you know what’s that like  -“Mommy, can you agree to do what I am about to  ask you to do”  Somewhat understandable because…  This is within the family  In Matt. parallel account, mother of James and John, who is named “Salome” comes to Jesus  Salome = Jesus’ mother’s sister = His aunt  James and John = Jesus’ cousins  It’s a family deal, playing family card  Notice they got theology right, but their hearts were in desperate need of a dose of humility  Lord repeatedly talking and alluding to His suffering and death, yet all they think about is who is the greatest! | 6  Even during night of Lord’ betrayal Luke tells us they were still arguing about who is the greatest!  This is sick folks, just sick and it shows the ugly nature of our hearts  This same sick and ugly pride resides in your hearts  Any chance it gets, it will manifest  You probably wouldn’t have fared any better if you were there too  Presumptuous request to think Jesus cater to their fleshly demands  -Like many today who snaps their fingers at God thinking He is a divine butler who immediately comes to their service  V. 36  Like a wise parent  “What do you want Me to do for you?” |
| 7  Essentially: “You have no clue what you are asking”  They overestimated their willingness to follow Jesus even unto death  Later on in Mark, all disciples would flee  They will drink the cup and be baptized  Cup = suffering  Is. 51:17  Jerusalem commanded to arise out of their stupor because they have “drunk from the LORD’S hand the cup of His anger; the chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs”  Rev. 14:10  worshippers of beast will “drink the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb” | 8  Baptism = immersed in wrath  Luke 12:50  “I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!”  Cup + Baptism = picture of suffering and death  But Jesus in humanity submitting to will of Father said it was not His to give  Of course it was Jesus’ place to give  Jesus is after all same essence, will, nature, authority as Father  But as the God-man who took on human flesh, His mission and focus was to be substitute for sinners  not in determining who will sit at His right or left  “It has already been prepared before time began”  But disciples in v. 41 became “indignant” |
| 9  Indignant not only because James and John thought they were the greatest among them but also because they tried to beat them to the punch  In their pride to be exalted they noticed pride of James and John  “prideful people tend to notice other prideful people”  Jesus in infinite wisdom turns it into a teaching lesson  VV. 42-45 (read)  Gentiles operate on power, dominance, hierarchy  They are in fact acting like Gentiles!  Doesn’t work in God’s economy  World’s system is not compatible with God’s system  It is reverse | 10  True greatness is about being last, not first  servant = *diakonos* = table waiter  -“deacon”  Just in case people get the idea that they have some rights and privileges, Jesus clarifies  “slave of all” = *doulos*  Not only have a willing spirit, but an obligation to serve master as lowest in society  But God doesn’t have any needs, He is completely sufficient all to Himself  His nature is like the burning bush that appeared to Moses, it was on fire, but never consumed  Acts 17:24-25  “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things” |
| 11  Q: Then why are we slaves and we do we serve God?  A: Verse 45  If not even Jesus come to be served, but to serve, so should we  Argument from greater to lesser  It is not ransom like ransom theory of atonement where Satan is demanding a price  It is substitutionary atonement  Jesus needed to satisfy the wrath of God = propitiation  As atonement he also needed to be our expiation = actually removing your sins away from you  TRANSITION:  Now we come to opposite of attitude of disciples in verse 46 | 12  Come to Jericho for a bit  As leaving Jericho encounter “Bartimaeus” = Son of Timaeus = Son of “honor”  Screams out “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”  But people try to snuff out cry and silence him  Despite opposition from crowds like hemorrhaging woman and like paralytic who was let down through roof he was determined  Cries out all the louder “Son of David, have mercy on Me!”  Leaving behind only thing he had (his cloak)  Bartimaeus comes to Jesus  But Jesus in compassion tells crowd to bring him  It is an amazing parallel and contrast we will see |
| 13  Notice same exact question as James and John  “What do you want Me to do for you?”  “Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!”  Rabboni = “my” teacher instead of just “a” teacher = personal/intimate  More than that Matt. 20  “Lord,” Son of David  In Matt. Bartimaeus is unnamed and there is 2 blind men instead of one  No Matthew or Mark did not get it wrong, they are focusing on different aspects of encounter  Mark could have left the detail out, but he intentionally leaves it in  Son of “Honor” not like Sons of “Thunder” | 14  Son of honor “honored” the Lord because though blind He saw “true greatness” in Son of Man giving up His life for sinners  Sons of thunder “dishonored” the Lord because though they could see, they were actually blind to that “true greatness”  Not only wanted physical sight back, but wanted spiritual sight  Jesus: “Go your faith has made you well” = *sozo* lit. “saved”  Immediately he began following Jesus “on the road”  James and John = asked for fame  Bartimaeus = asks for faith and sight  James and John = sit with Jesus in glory  Bartimaeus = follow Jesus on the road to suffering  Bartimaeus isn’t even thinking about position/rank |
| 15  He is just joyful that God has saved a wretch like him  Rank and power does not matter to him, he wants Jesus, that’s it.  Notice:  before: by the road  after: on the road  Outsider = insider  lost = found  Notice also:  Both rich and poor are asked to give up everything they have to follow Jesus  Rich man = possessions  Bartimaeus = cloak  Both need to deny themselves, pick up their cross, and follow Him | 16  Phil. 2:5-9  “Have this *way of* thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”  Jesus has every right to hold onto His glory and never to have become a man  But He chose to do so that we could experience glorious, most preeminent, most supreme, love man has ever seen |
| 17  John 15:13  “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”  What makes this even more profound?  “For one will hardly die hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!”  What is Paul is saying:  Anyone hardly dies for a righteous person  Maybe for a “good” person = strong personal attachment to like family  But we are neither righteous nor part of God’s family  We are in fact in our unjustified state “children of the devil,” not “children of God” | 18  There was absolutely nothing in it for God  This passage is in your Bible to show you that it does not matter what rank or position you are in.  It does not matter if you work a dirty job that nobody ever notices for the rest of your life  What matters in this life is whether you have trusted in Christ as Lord and Savior  Whether you have cried out to Jesus  “Son of David, have mercy on me!”  What matters is whether you are willing to follow Jesus no matter the cost on the road to redemption  What matters is whether you have  “been crucified with your pride with Christ and that it is no longer you who live, but Christ who lives in you; and the life which you now live in the flesh you live by faith in the Son of God, who loved you and gave Himself up for you.”  This is true greatness. Have you done that today? |