



Saturday, 3/20 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/21 at 9:00

Fifth Sunday in Lent – 2021

Lenten Wednesdays: Service at 11 & 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, ✦ we are in **Mark chapter 10**, ✦ the cross of Jesus is drawing closer, and ✦ Jesus and His disciples are going up to Jerusalem. Jesus was leading them and unafraid, *but Jesus' disciples were fearful!* Right at that moment, *Jesus told them God's plan:* ³³ **“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again.”**

Even though Jesus knew the *horror* of what was coming for Him, *He fully obeyed His Father's will!* May the Holy Spirit use this sermon to ✦ **grow** our thankfulness for Jesus' saving work and ✦ **give** us a heart to rightly serve Him with our lives!

1. **Does Jesus Owe Us Something?** ³⁵ **James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, “Teacher,**

we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.”

³⁶ And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” ³⁷ They said to Him, “Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory.” // James and John tried to lift themselves up to a high position, *but Jesus calls us to humble ourselves (Luke 14:11)*. Consider these passages on the topics of servicing and rewards:

- a. Servicing: In **Luke 17:7-10**, Jesus told His disciples that a slave does what he is commanded – *because he is a slave*. Then Jesus said to His disciples, **“So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.’”**
- b. Rewards: In **Mark 10:28-30**, Peter said to Jesus, **“...we have left everything and followed You.”** Jesus said, **“...[everyone] who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, ...will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age...; and in the age to come, eternal life.”** Jesus owes us nothing, **but** – *when we follow Him* – **He freely gives us much!**

2. **What Did Jesus Mean by Drinking and Baptizing?** **³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”** // With both words – “drink” and “baptized” – *Jesus was talking about His suffering*. But note this key difference: “drink” is the **active** tense – *Jesus willingly followed the Father’s will*; “Baptized” is the **passive** tense – *the Father putting our sins and His wrath on Jesus!*

3. **Who Determines the Positions in Glory?** ³⁹ They said to Him, “We are able [to drink the cup you drink and be baptized with the baptism with which you are baptized].” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. ⁴⁰ But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” // For James and John, their desire was commendable, *but they had more to learn.*
- a. What is the difference between Jesus and His disciples?
 - i. **When Jesus drank and was baptized** (suffered) – *He took away our sins!*
 - ii. **When followers of Jesus drink and are baptized** (suffer for Jesus’ sake) – *they publicly confess Jesus!*
 - b. Should we exalt ourselves? *No!* The Bible is clear: **Our job** is to *humble ourselves*; **God’s job** is to *exalt us*.
 - c. Should we trust that God’s plan is best? *By all means!*
 - ▶ **God** loves us, ▶ **God** has brought us into His family through Jesus, ▶ **God** has plans for us now – *that He wants us to know and follow*, and ▶ **God** has plans for us in eternity – *that He wants us to look forward to!*
4. **Should We be Different than the World?** ⁴¹ Hearing *this*, the ten began to feel indignant [*angry*] with James and John. ⁴² Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. // It was wrong for James and

John to ask, *but it was also wrong for the others to become angry*. Jesus then spoke to all of them.

- a. Romans: They were heavy-handed with their subjects to maintain their high positions – similar to some USA politicians, *who **should** be public servants!*
- b. Christians: The opposite of the Romans, *and how the USA politicians are **supposed** to be! Want to be great? Serve others! Want to be greatest? Be the slave of all!*
A great quote from Lenski: “...the great man does not sit atop the lesser men, but the great man bears the lesser men on his back” (462). Jesus is doing that for us – *having taken our sins and now carrying us to heaven!*

5. **What are Some Key Factors of Jesus Serving Us?** ⁴⁵ **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”** // The Son of God put on flesh to serve us. Our need was GREAT and His service was EXCRUCIATING, *but Jesus paid our ransom!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Jesus owes us nothing *but gives us everything!*
- **Relevance** – Our part – *know and follow God’s will; God’s part* – *give us a high position in eternity!*
- **Inspiration** – As Jesus, the **HIGHEST**, did the lowest, *let us model the service of Jesus in our lives!*

Let Us Pray: Lord Jesus, as You focused on the Father’s will *and everything turned out great*, so help us to do the same *and look forward to an awesome eternity!*

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Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230