

Introduction: Every word we heard from our Scripture passages this morning speaks of how awesome Jesus The Savior IS!

First a multitude of people were being amazed by Him and afraid of Him because of all the wonders He had done among them. *** We hear it in how people address Him. He is called: Teacher, Son of David (Messiah-King) and Great One. *** But, He told those closest to Him that He would soon be handed over to religious leaders and Romans to be executed; then, He would rise to life. *** He dealt with the pride and jealousy of the Twelve with firm patience to correct their wrong understanding of greatness. He gave them a difficult to impossible standard by which they must live. Then He told them that He humbled Himself to live in a human body to do what He is requiring of them; but, He would do more than that, because of who He IS. *** Finally, as He neared His destiny, He had great mercy on a blind man with persistent faith. He graciously made the man whole, body and soul. *** About a thousand years before Jesus came to earth, David composed a song about his desire to teach his children that reverent worship of The Covenant God will lead to the pursuit of peace. *** Let's now look at the details so we may better understand God's grace in Jesus so we will have more gratitude working itself out in us by our following Him in obedient faith producing service to all.

I. On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus tells the Twelve about His death and resurrection; then, when Zebedee's sons request the most elevated positions, He says greatness is measured by serving others. (Mark 10:32-45)

A. Going to Jerusalem, Jesus again tells the Twelve that He will be delivered over to death, but He will rise in three days. (Verses 32-34)

1. They were going up to Jerusalem and Jesus was going before them; they were being amazed and following they were being afraid. (Verses 32a-b)

Jerusalem: Jesus is leading His disciples to Jerusalem, the highest point in Judea.

Amazed and afraid: It was a journey of at least three days and His followers were being amazed and reverently fearing Him because of all He had done for three years.

2. Having spoken to the Twelve, he began to tell them the things about to happen to Him, 'Behold! We are going up to Jerusalem'. (Verses 32c-33a)

Began to tell of Passion: What will follow will be His third prophecy of His Passion on The Cross.

3. 'The Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priest and scribes, they will condemn Him to death and will deliver Him to the nations, they will ridicule Him and will spit on Him and will whip Him, and they will kill Him'. (Verses 33b-34a)

Delivered to death: The religious leaders and leaders of the Roman Empire will take seven actions against Jesus culminating in executing Him.

3. 'And after three days He will rise!' (Verse 34b)

Resurrection hope: The hope at the end of His sacrifice for the sins of people is He will rise from the dead on the first day of the week! He was crucified before the Sabbath (seventh day), so He rose on the eighth day – a new beginning!

We must thank God that Jesus died for us on The Cross!

B. Zebedee's sons demand of Jesus to sit at His right hand and left hand in His glory; but, He tells them all that greatness is measured by ministering to others in service. (Verses 35-45)

1. They are coming to Him, Jacob (James) and John, the sons of Zebedee (my gift), saying, 'Teacher! We are desiring if we may ask Thee (that) Thou may do (this) for us'. (Verse 35)

Sons of Zebedee: All Bible texts have Jacob, which became Jacques in French, then James in English.

Teacher: They address Jesus as Teacher. That is one way they knew Him.

2. He said to them, 'What you all are desiring (of) Me, (that) I may do for you all'. (Verse 36)

Jesus: With this question, Jesus gives them permission to make their request of Him.

3. They said to Him, 'Thou must give to us that, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left hand, we may sit in Thy glory'. (Verse 37)

Big Request: With this request they are asking to have the two highest places in God's Kingdom of all the people who ever lived. This would forever put them above all people, such as: Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah – everyone!

4. Jesus said to them, 'Not you all have known what you all are asking: (Are) you all being able to drink the cup I, even I am drinking or the baptism which I, even I am being baptized?' (Verse 38)

Ignorance: He answers their request with a statement and a question. He says they have not counted the cost, and can they be brutally crucified with Him?

5. They said to Him, 'We are being able'. (Verse 39a)

Great self-confidence: So, they express confidence they can be whipped within an inch of their lives and then be lifted up on a cross to suffocate to death as every muscle in their body breaks down.

6. And Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I, even I am drinking, you all will drink, and the baptism I, even I, am being baptized, you all will be baptized'. (Verse 39b)

You will die: Jesus emphasizes He is choosing to be crucified, but Jacob (James) and John will have no choice – they will be crucified.

7. 'But to sit by My right hand or by My opposite (left) hand, not is being Mine to give, but to whom it has been prepared'. (Verse 40)

Not My decision: Jesus says they will not sit beside Him because God has chosen two others.

8. Having heard, the Ten, they began to be angry with Jacob (James) and John'. (Verse 41)

Human response: The pride and jealousy of all twelve apostles is spilling over into anger!

9. Having called them, Jesus is saying, 'You all had known, they being thought to rule over the nations are having power of lordship over them and are ruling by authority over them'. (Verse 42)

Nations of world: Jesus points out that the rulers of all nations but Israel rule by power and force.

10. 'Not so in you all; whoever may desire to become great will be servant of you all'. (Verses 43-44)

Greatness through service: Jesus says His followers will become great through self-giving service.

We must question our definition of greatness so it is NOT like the world; but, rather, what Jesus requires – namely we give ourselves in service to all people.

Greatness comes through serving and giving

11. 'For even The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give His life, the means of redemption on behalf of many'. (Verse 45)

Supreme model: The Messiah came to serve all people, as an example for them to follow by grace.

ONLY Messiah: But, ONLY Messiah (being fully God and Man), and therefore perfect, is qualified to give His life as the ransom-price for sin.

Greatness comes through serving and giving

II. A blind man cries out to Jesus near Jericho, addressing Him as Messiah and asks to see; Jesus commends his faith and he sees at once; David teaches worship of The Covenant God produces peace. (Mark 10:46-52; Psalm 34:11-14)

A. A blind man on the way to Jericho cries out to Jesus as The Messiah and asks to see; Jesus says his faith has made him whole and he sees at once. (Mark 10:46-52)

1. They are coming to Jericho; and, going out Him from Jericho and His disciples, and great number of people: the son of Timaeus (highly prized), Bartimaeus, blind beggar, he was sitting beside the way. (Verse 46)
Jericho: Jericho was the first city west of the Jordan River conquered by the first Joshua (Yeshua – Yah will save, Joshua 5:13-6:27).
Blind man: Being among God's people is no guarantee of having physical vision. Perhaps, he may represent people in the world who do not have The Holy Spirit and The Faith of Jesus?
2. Having heard Jesus the Nazarene He is being, he began to cry out and to say, 'Son of David! Jesus (Yeshua)! Thou must be merciful (to) me'. (Verse 47)
Mercy sought: He first addresses Jesus of Nazareth as The Messiah (the promised eternal King from David (2 Samuel 7:8-17). He cries out for Messiah to have mercy on him for his blindness.
3. They were commanding him, the great number of people, that he might be silent, but much more he was crying out, 'Son of David! Thou must be merciful (to) me'. (Verse 48)
Crowd: They are strongly telling him to stop, to cease crying out, to be still – silent! Instead, the blind man continued to cry out to Messiah!
4. Having stood still, Jesus said, 'You all must summon him'; and they are summoning the blind man, saying, 'Thou must be taking comfort (being encouraged), thou must be rising, He is calling thee'. (Verse 49)
Jesus: Jesus heard the cries of the blind man, and He stood still. He then commands the man be brought to Him.
Crowd: The crowd commands the blind man to be comforted (encouraged). They use the same rare word Jesus used just before leaving the Upper Room to pray before His death (John 16:33).
5. Having thrown off his garment and having jumped up, he came to Jesus; having answered him, Jesus said, 'What thou are desiring I should do?' (Verses 50-51a)
Man excited: The blind man is very excited and shows vigor!
Jesus' question: Jesus asks the man what he desires Jesus do for him.
6. The blind man said, 'My Great One! That I might be able to see'. (Verses 51b)
Address: He addresses Jesus as 'Rabboni', a term of respect, which in Hebrew means 'my Great One'!
Request: His request is to have his eyes healed so he may see. We must all continue to ask Jesus to give us spiritual vision.
7. Jesus said to him, 'Thou must be going back; thy faith had saved (made whole) Thee'; and, at once he became able to see, and he was following Jesus in the way. (Verse 52)
Action-Result: Jesus gave him sight, and he gave himself to Jesus to follow Him!

Greatness comes through serving and giving

Grace-gratitude: In light of all Jesus has graciously given us, let us always be grateful to Him, thanking Him by giving to Him all we are to be always following Him.

B. In a Psalm, David teaches that reverent worship of The Covenant God will give good days and peace to those desiring life. (Psalm 34:11-14)

1. Come children, listen to me / The fear of Yahweh I will teach you. (Verse 11)
David as father: David is teaching his children, doing what God commanded His people through Moses (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
Fear of Yahweh: He wants them to have a reverent fear for The Covenant God, Yahweh. This is faith because whatever is less than the most awe-inspiring Person is an inadequate object of worship.
2. What man who delights in life / Loving days to see good. (Verse 12)
Good life: David is saying any who reverently fear and worship God will delight in life and find love in seeing God's goodness.
3. Thou must keep thy tongue from evil / and thy lips from speaking deceit // Thou must depart from evil ... (Verses 13-14a)
No evil: Those who worship God must not be involved in evil, in either in word or deed.
4. ... and thou must do good / Thou must seek peace and thou must pursue it. (Verses 14b-c)
Good: David commands his children to do what is good.
Peace: He also tells them to seek peace. This completes the teaching that those who fear Yahweh will seek and obtain peace with God.

The fear of Yahweh produces peace

Pursuit: David also used the word pursue in Psalm 23, concluding God has always pursued him with goodness and steadfast LOVE. [King James translators 'toned down' the word to 'follow']

Application: Let us pursue God's peace as He pursues us in His goodness and strong LOVE so that we may obtain by grace shalom-peace, the wholeness of salvation, as Bartimaeus did.

Conclusion: On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus begins to tell the Twelve about His upcoming death and resurrection, and Zebedee's sons request the most elevated positions and Jesus says true greatness is measured by serving others. Then a blind man cries out to Jesus on the way to Jericho, addressing Him as Messiah and asking Jesus that he may see, Jesus commends him for his faith and he sees at once. David teaches the next generation that reverent worship of The Covenant God results in peace.

Greatness comes through serving and giving