

03212021 Journey to the cross...As Jesus is now beginning to move toward Jerusalem and being concerned with the state of His disciples preparedness for his departure and the ministry they would continue after his departure... he begins the passing of the baton to his relay runners...which is now passed onto us... he knew his whole life when his end would come...and stated it a number of times with statements like...my time has not yet come...and don't tell anyone so as not to draw that attention...

**Now What if you knew you only had a short time to live.. Well the truth is we will all at some point in our lives will have only a short time to live...the problem is we don't know when that is... but if you knew when that was, what would you do in that time? What business would you need to prepare for your departure? or complete before your departure? Who would you need to talk to? Who would you want to spend time with? ...I think the answers would depend on what our life circumstances would be at that time...if I was a husband and father with young children, that would probably pose different actions than if I was a single man living by myself...and so on... But the truth is getting one's house in order is a priority for anyone closing out this life...if they have time...and everyone in here has time today!!**

**The first thing is always to set our house in order... I know what my dad did when he was given a year to live after finding out he had pancreatic cancer at the age of 48...He was married, a business partner and owner, and had eight children living at home ranging in age from 4 1/2-17 years old and all in parochial elementary or high school...**

**I remember he and my mom going to the cemetery to purchase plots for not only my dad , but he purchased one for my mom, and two for his parents , and another for his mentally disabled brother...and even an extra for the first of his children should they pass at a young age...that plot is the one**

that holds my son's and daughter bodies ...as he was the first to go to heaven of the next two generations... my dad was a good man!

During those last month's I can remember at least two times my dad as sick as he was sitting with my mom at the kitchen table spreading out all the paper work my mom would need to know about when the time came....He set them out in little columns... one column had all his life insurances policies, another business papers and contracts another the mortgage documents and car payment, another the medical bills... another his social security paperwork, and the last his mortuary documents... and then explaining to my mom as she took notes... all that she needed to do and when things ought to be paid...and what she should expect to receive financially... I remember them going to the accountant, and overhearing my dad tell my mother that if she was careful, she would not have to work outside the home and would be able to stay home and take care of the kids and keep the home also! My mom followed all my dad told her...and it worked out just as he planned!

He prepared a future for his family that he would not partake in... and was right with God! He finished Well...Bless Him!!

**Tim please put this up...He was faithful now so others would be fruitful later! \_\_\_\_\_ he had the long view in mind**

**Well Jesus had a plan to take care of His Father's family in the future also ... He was deeply concerned with the state of His disciples preparedness for his departure and the ministry they would continue after his departure... he begins the passing of the baton to his relay runners....which is now passed onto us... A primary Kingdom principle**

**Jesus teaching them that He was faithful now so they would be fruitful later. So they need to be faithful now so they would be fruitful later.**

**Tim put this up: We must be faithful now so we can be fruitful later**

**lets pick up this most important teaching in the last months of Jesus life**

**They had left Caesarea Philippi the city of Pagans and were heading back south toward Jerusalem by way of Gallilee...**

*MK 9: 30 Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, 31 for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." 32 They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.*

- **Jesus separated them away from crowds ... he wanted to teach his disciples privately ...there is a time for public ministry ...and there is a time for private instruction...Their minds could not wrap around what Jesus said was going to happen...**
- **The disciples fully believed they knew what Jesus would do...and the plan he shared goes against everything they have believed ...**
- **why were they afraid to ask anymore? They did not want to hear any more information... they did not understand it...it confused them...grieved them...scared them... and were not able to process any more.**
- **To them it was bad news even, worse devastating news on top of that disillusioning news...**
- **He had previously told them he would die at the hands of the religious leaders...now gives new information..Jesus will be betrayed by someone or those closest to him...and the apostles were the closest...**
- **Right there is a morale killer!! PLEASE NO MORE NEWS!!**

**What kind of winning Kingdom strategy is this???...and what does it say about them??? and what does it mean for them to as the leaders in Jesus' kingdom???**

**what are they supposed to do?**

- Listen...When ones belief is challenged or even shattered ...one natural response is to become confused...angry...disillusioned which leads to insecurity...
- Jesus has brought this upon them...so they don't want to talk to him anymore...they discuss and argue among themselves what this all means...

**So as the group walks toward Peter's house in Capernaum...the disciples discuss this amongst themselves...which led to an argument...**

- Someone is going to betray Jesus...well I won't because I am truly loyal... in fact better than you all which leads to a discussion and Matthew tells us an argument among themselves argument ...
- So if Jesus is going to die and rise again whatever that means....who then is number two???? Cause we always try to help Jesus out...

*Mark 9: .<sup>33</sup> After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?"<sup>34</sup> But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.*

- While they discussed privately, Christ knew their thoughts. We may never have argued with someone openly about our greatness, but Christ knows our thoughts, and the attitudes that inhabit them. And we have all compared ourselves to others...and often found them wanting...or the opposite find ourselves wanting...
- Our biggest hindrance to greatness may be the desire to be great.... The apostles understood they were the chosen twelve...but began to jockey who is number two three and so on down to twelfth

**But the truth is during their short time with Jesus they have all failed him...**

- they have all shown themselves to fail Jesus and in front of each other... and rebuked for their lack of faith by Jesus
- Peter was denounced by Jesus in front of everyone for his vehement rejection of the plan that Jesus shared...and actually being called Satan...and a mere man in his thinking...

- The failure of the nine in front of everyone to cast out a demon...The religious leaders embarrassed the nine in front of everyone for this lack of success...
- And none of them get what Jesus is talking about... are we dumb?? So now they start to judge each other by each other... lucklily that never happens today!!
- It was time to regain and establish status amongst themselves and in relation to Jesus...
- So when Jesus asks them...it is another embarrassing moment...fueled by pride and fear ... so they don't say anything...so he is going to teach them a new principle now:  
A new principle...be Faithful now so you can be fruitful later...follow this teaching serve others now you will move up later

*Mark 9: 35 He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."*

- Jesus sits down...sitting down is a teachers position.....He calls them like a teacher calling the class together....they gather around him and stand most likely...a student's position...
- First He did not correct them for wanting to be great saying that is a bad thing...in fact He explained the path to greatness in the Kingdom of God...He simply defined for them how one achieves that position.....
- it is not about...Power, position and prestige or possessions...He states that status in the kingdom ...comes from humility to see others advance, coupled with serving them to achieve that...
- The greatest among them the 12 is the one who serves the other 12 best...

If they can be faithful to this teaching now...they will be fruitful later

- His definition of greatness is simply this.... greatness is helping others succeed...who is around you ...are you helping them succeed or are you competing with them???

**if you serve then which means to help them succeed...they advance and you advance.... if all twelve help all twelve advance ...they are all number one!!**

**two fold harvest others advance and you advance...**

**class was over...yet They still want power and position in the Kingdom of Jesus ...no matter how Jesus says to go about that ... a little while later**

*MK 10: 35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." 36 "What is your request?" he asked. 37 They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?" 39 "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!"*

**You see Jesus knew the real men he had.....He knew things about them they were not even aware of yet... they were prideful and stubborn...**

- **He knew their insecurity, and fears and their shortcomings...but He did not hold it against them...in fact these were the men who would change the world they lived in...through His Holy Spirit power once His presence would leave them...**
- **They will have Faith that will move mountains...because it will be God faith...not their own faith in themselves....but faith in him....**
- **Whatever position and power is not to be their concern...**
- **if they can be faithful now they can be fruitful later.**
- **They will indeed be baptized in the Holy Spirit...and will drink the cup of God's will ....God's will for their lives just as Jesus drank the cup of God's will for His life... and the Holy Spirit will equip them ...**
- **They will think thoughts like Jesus!! They will be in tune with Jesus ... They will have faith like Jesus does in the plan of His Father!!**



- **Their thinking will be become aligned with God’s thinking...therefore they will act in accordance with the will of God!!**
- **But know this Jesus tells them...the plan of who sits where has already been predetermined...it is not their business..their business is serving...**

*<sup>40</sup> But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”*

**Yet it is ordained for them to have seats in the throne room... for they will get it down the line...and already have invested much in their faith...**

***Matt 19:27** Then Peter said to him, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?” <sup>28</sup> Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new<sup>[i]</sup> and the Son of Man<sup>[i]</sup> sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.*

- Jesus gave them a marvelous promise of rewards in this life and in the next. They would even share thrones when He established His kingdom.
- **Whatever good things they had forsaken for His sake would be returned to them a hundredfold. giving up for faith is an investment for the future...**
- In other words, they were not making sacrifices—they were making investments. But not all of the dividends would be received in this life.

**Continue to be faithful now...when your confused, disappointed...insecure...and you will be fruitful later...**

- **When the others heard about this..they were indignant ...probably because they did not ask first...Pride**

*MK 10: 41 When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant.*

**This discussion opened up the opportunity to teach the same lesson a different way..**

*Mark 10:*<sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

**the Gentiles operate in Pride...by position Ruler (lords over) a master over people...orders them around for their benefit..**

<sup>43</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant<sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

*if you can be Faithful now and you can be fruitful later!*

- **This is what makes Jesus so great.. He ransomed himself faithful now so that others would be fruitful later! that humans will be freed of their curse and lifted up to the heavens..to be seated with him...**

<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

*He was faithful now...so others would be fruitful later...*

*What is a Ransom?...payment of equivalent value to liberate a slave or to set a captive free... a Ransom is saying someones life is worth this much...whatever that is...will you pay it?*

- **He will be the ransom to set many captives free... The payment of the death of God...is enough to set all men free.**
- **His plan was not to be served by man...but to set man free by giving his life for men...that they may have eternal life...fruitful**
- **then he tells us...you want to be great...help these former captives become all that they were designed for...help them succeed and you in turn will become a great success and called great in the Kingdom of God...**

two fold teaching...learn it

If you can be faithful now you can be fruitful later

If you can be faithful now others can be fruitful later! end



## How do we do that...develop the character trait of ...Humility

*PHP 2: 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

- make them better than yourself!!!
- Humility is the strand between people that underscores one common element: our humanity.
- Humility is the admission of humanity, a sense that you and I are in this together.
- Humility is the head understanding and heart stance that I am not above the rest of the human race
- Humility is the head understanding and heart stance that say I am not below the rest of the human race
- A humble person is firmly identified with the human race...
- The root of the word humility comes from the word *humus* meaning earth...
- and also from a Greek word meaning *on the ground*
- So the humble person has his or her feet firmly planted on the ground...
- firmly planted in reality and that includes the knowledge that he is a down – to-earth, gifted, but imperfect person jut like everyone else...
- It is not lonely at the top or at the bottom if one is humble...because there is good company to be found at both extremes not to mention in the middle if I am humble...and down to earth...
- Because ones feet are firmly planted on reality...one is neither better than any nor worse than any...one is where one is.

A mistake that makes you humble is way better than a success that makes you Arrogant

- This is what makes Jesus so great.. **He ransomed himself that humans will be freed of their curse and lifted up to the heavens..to be seated with him...**

<sup>45</sup> *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."*

- **What is a Ransom?...payment of equivalent value to liberate a slave or to set a captive free... a Ransom is saying someones life is worth this much...whatever that is...will you pay it?**
- **He will be the ransom to set many captives free... The payment of the death of God...is enough to set all men free.**
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- then he tells us...you want to be great...help these former captives become all that they were designed for...help them succeed and you in turn will become a great success and called great in the Kingdom of God...

end

**\*\*\*\*He expounds more... loving the least is powerful...**

*Mark 9:* <sup>36</sup> Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

**In those times women were viewed as second class citizens and children as third class citizens. They were not even included in the count of the crowd of 5,000 which Jesus fed with five loaves and two fish.**

- **Children were considered a liability until they could grow up and serve and earn a living to support the household.**
- **The one who is most like a child...the least in position, prestige and power... ranks highest...Why? because Children know they don't know...that is why they ask a billion questions...they are teachable**
- **They know they need others...they know they cannot make it alone...they are dependent**
- **They don't have near the amount of ego problems adults do in "following the leader"...**
- **They like to play with other children... which is mutual submission...you be mom or dad...I am the baby and visa versa...rather than always compete with them...**
- **A child does not hold long grudges against other children; soon he forgets that they fought and becomes friendly again.**
- **They believe the impossible is possible...or else why would anyone believe in Santa? One guy going to every house in the world in one night? And...they don't mind getting dirty...**

**Jesus speaks of welcoming a child the powerless as being the equivalent of welcoming Jesus- and that in turn is the equivalent of welcoming God the Father.**

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**Each of the apostles like you and i had their own preformed ideas and beliefs...based on their personal experiences, observations, religious upbringing, their own spiritual experiences, influenced by their parents, their peers, their traumas, and their culture.**

**He began to teach them the big picture of his plans for himself as we have discussed in Mark eight... and he will teach them leadership principles they must learn...They had left Caesarea Philippi and were heading back south toward Jerusalem by way of Gallilee**

*MK 9:30*

<sup>30</sup>Leaving that region, they traveled through Gallilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, <sup>31</sup>for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." <sup>32</sup>They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant. <sup>33</sup>After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" <sup>34</sup>But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

**they were already rocked in their security in Jesus...they are panicking that it is all out of control...**

- **They were discussing and arguing out of their failure, panic, worry, anxiety, doubt and trauma of that situation ...**
- **they all have failed publicly...so who failed the least....**
- **they have all shown themselves to fail Jesus and in front of eachother... and rebuked for their lack of faith by Jesus**
- **it sounded prideful...but they did not want that exposed so they remained quiet...**

**Mark 9:35** <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

I sits down...sitting down is a teachers position.....He calls them like a teacher calling the class together....they gather around him and stand most likely...a students position...

- I would be thinking ...Oh Man another teaching moment...just what we don't want...is this more bad news...
- 1. He gives them another first...the first law of Leadership... of Spiritual leadership
- First he does not condemn their desire to be first...he redefines how one achieves that position.....it is not about...Power, position and prestige...He states that status ...comes from humility coupled with service...
- 2. The greatest among them is the one who serves the other 12 best...  
the one who seeks to help others succeed. Is the greatest...
- 3. And when you help them succeed you advance also...you help the other twelve advance you advance twelve fold...

That is a first ...that is not how their society runs...then he blows their minds again with another first...the powerful are served by the lessor

\*\*\*\*He expounds more... **loving the least is powerful...**

*Mark 9:* <sup>36</sup>Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf<sup>©</sup> welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

**In those times women were viewed as second class citizens and children as third class citizens.** They were not even included in the count of the crowd of 5,000 which Jesus fed with five loaves and two fish.

1. Children were considered a liability until they could grow up and serve and earn a living to support the household.

**2. The one who is most like a child...the least in position, prestige and power... ranks highest...Why? because Children know they don't know...that is why they ask a billion questions...they are teachable**

- They know they need others...they know they cannot make it alone...they are dependent
- They don't have near the amount of ego problems adults do in "following the leader"...
- They like to play with other children... which is mutual submission...you be mom or dad...I am the baby and visa versa...rather than always compete with them...
- a child does not hold long grudges against other children; soon he forgets that they fought and becomes friendly again.
- They believe the impossible is possible...or else why would anyone believe in Santa? One guy going to every house in the world in one night?
- And...they don't mind getting dirty...

**Jesus speaks of welcoming a child the powerless as being the equivalent of welcoming Jesus- and that in turn is the equivalent of welcoming God the Father.**

**\*\*\*The disciples got this a little...ok were ok but what about them...**

**John interrupts with a burning question...Ok we are all equal but at least were better then others...Right??**

- **John reveals his heart.... He and They are not only competitive with each other but also with other servants of the Gospel...other disciples...**

*MK 9:38* <sup>38</sup> John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group."

- **I get...but surely were the only ones who can cast out demons...Can I stop him ...please...cause only we can do miracles right??? John ... felt**



**the need to fight for greater market share and personal following...hey this is our monopoly...**

- **The man was doing a wonderful work of God. And helping people...But John did not accept him because he was not one of them.**
- **I am sure the demon possessed man was happy this guy drove him out...but who cares about results...**

**Exclusive people are dangerous and petty creatures and they cannot please God.**

- **They often try to hinder the work of God in the name of God...**
- **Someone else was effectively doing the works of Jesus but that person was not them...so he must be stopped...Right Jesus??**

- **Jesus reply...DO NOT STOP HIM.... It is not only about you guys!!!**

*MK 9:* <sup>39</sup>“Don’t stop him!” Jesus said. “No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Anyone who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

**I tell you the truth!!! In other words really John listen to me about this...**

- **If he is doing a miracle in my name...he is connected to me...and if he is connected to me.... He is connected to you!!!**
- **If someone so much as gives a glass of water because he is connected to me...even that will be rewarded by me!!!**
- **Serving others even a little gives you heavenly reward and stature...**
- **There is no such thing as to little a service ...all service to God is remembered by God!!**
- **In fact both are miraculous...one takes time and the other is immediate...**
- **I want and need both...How about you?**

Jesus sets out on his last trip to Jerusalem heading for his crucifixion...

*MK 10:* <sup>32</sup>They were now on the way up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were filled with awe, and the people following behind were overwhelmed with fear. Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus once more began to describe everything that was about to happen to him.

- **More details....not good news...for the apostles...**

<sup>33</sup>"Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man<sup>34</sup> will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die and hand him over to the Romans."<sup>34</sup>They will mock him, spit on him, flog him with a whip, and kill him, but after three days he will rise again."

He will depict the violence ...Mock, spit on him, flog him or beat him **tells them his death will happen in Jerusalem...where they are heading**

- 1. he will be betrayed (by his own) to the High Priest and religious leaders**
- 2. He will be condemned to death...this legal term indicates he will be tried and condemned within the criminal justice system**
- 3. The Gentiles will carry out the sentence...**
- 4. ...and kill him...**
- 5. again tells them ...He will rise again after three days...**

**they still do not get what he is telling them...**

- Not only did the disciples have mental conflict over what Jesus just did and said...they enter into a new ones...

Power verse humility...serving and leading..

- **And there is nothing that hinders Trust like Pride...Jesus had a planbut they are holding on to their plan...**

**A prideful person is an emotionally immature person.... They still want power and position in the Kingdom of Jesus ...no matter what he says about it...**

*MK 10:*

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." <sup>36</sup> "What is your request?" he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering."

**You see Jesus knew the real men he had.....He knew things about them they were not even aware of yet...**

- **He knew their pride, their fears, their insecurity, their shortcomings...but He did not hold it against them...in fact these were the men who would change the world they lived in...through His Holy Spirit power once His presence would leave them... ..**
- **They will have Faith that will move mountains...because it will be God faith...not their own....but faith in him....**
- **They will indeed be baptized in the Holy Spirit...and will drink the cup of God's will ....God's will, will be nourishing drink to their soul...and the Holy Spirit will equip them ...**
- **They will think thoughts like Jesus!! They will be in tune with Jesus ... They will have faith like Jesus does in the plan of His Father!!**
- **Their thinking will be aligned with God's thinking...therefore they will act in accordance with the will of God!!**

<sup>40</sup> *but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."*

- **But the seating next to Jesus is prepared for those who will be called to sit their...**
- **When the others heard about this..they were indignangt ...probably because they did not ask first...Pride**

*MK 10:41* *When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.*

- **Which opens up another opportunity for Jesus to continue to teach...**

<sup>42</sup> *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great*

among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

<sup>45</sup> 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.*"

- **They are blown away again...for the first time he states why he is going to die....He will be ransom for many...**
  - **Ransom...payment of equivalent value to liberate a slave or to set a captive free...**
  - **He will be the ransom to set many captives free... The payment of the death of God...is enough to set all men free.**
  - **He came to serve man willingly it was His plan...His plan was not to be served by man...but to set man free by giving his life for men...**
  - **So will his disciples be servants... or slaves of all that Jesus sets free...**
- Still more learning... in the school of humility and service...**

*LK 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and *rebuked them*, <sup>56</sup> and they went to another village.*

- **In Their self-righteous anger which was really pride..., They were angry at being rejected, like roaring thunder ...and if theirs is ...so must Jesus's**
- **they were ready to burn down a whole village and its people. Jesus rebuked them... final Judgment is the prerogative of God alone.**
- **But Jesus would later send disciples there ...they were just not ready yet to receive the Gospel...**
  - **No matter what the reason, thin skinned ...angry people are not good leaders.**
  - **We are to be a blessing...**

*JER 29:4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."*

- **Then a little while later...at the last supper with Jesus...His last night on earth...it is about them again...**

*Luke 22:24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.*

- **What is going on here?? With these slow learners...**
- **A few things...**
  1. **All these arguments about position ..were revealed during times of insecurity...and disillusionment... ..and very real trouble...**
  2. **This is the amazing power of Jesus...he has the capacity then and now to bring to the surface what is really inside of us...**
- **The first law of natural man is self preservation...save yourself, build yourself, protect yourself**
- **The first law of spiritual man is self sacrifice...one lays down their life for the greater increase of life...Please Jesus give me more life!!**

**These guys were in the steep learning curve of following Jesus...**

- **And Jesus knows how to bring out our places of resistance to his will... How? Through trials that cause insecurity, disillusionment, disappointment, fear, show our pride...**
- **Not to beat us down but to teach us to trust him...and to grow...this is the process...**

**James 1:2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- ***And it is not pleasant at the time...but boy does it train and produce good in us***

**Hebrews 12 :11** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

**There is no end around on this...for them or us... Open altar for prayers of strength, greater faith, perseverance....**