

03262023 Journey to the cross...**As Jesus is now beginning to move toward Jerusalem and his departure he is concerned with the state of His disciples preparedness for the ministry they would continue when he is gone..** 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...

Which takes us to this most important teaching on leadership in his Kingdom 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 believed they knew what Jesus mission was and how he would do it... and the plan he shared goes against everything they have believed ...this is called Cognitive dissonance...it is the mental and emotional discomfort that results from holding two conflicting beliefs, values, or attitudes. People tend to seek consistency in their**

attitudes and perceptions, so this conflict causes unpleasant feelings of unease or discomfort.

- **The apostles held their beliefs...and now they are given new information to hold, that goes absolutely against their currently held belief.**
- **To much to process at once and why were they afraid to ask anymore...as this was horrible news to them... They did not want to hear any more bad information... they did not understand it...it confused them...grieved them...scared them... and were not able to process any more.**
- **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... and he would rise from the dead...whatever that means...**
- **Right there is a morale killer!! PLEASE NO MORE NEWS!!**

What kind Messiah 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...we lose control...so we look to regain control**

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...**

Mark9: .³³ After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?”³⁴ 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...**

- **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...If we can be teachable now we will be fruitful later...follow this teaching serve others now you will move up later...obedience is not an end...it is a means to an end**

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...obedience to his teaching is the means to the goal of being the greatest**
- **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...**

His definition of greatness is simply this.... ***If you help others advance you advance.... if all twelve help all twelve**

advance ...they are all number one!! Receive it and obey it and you will achieve your goal!

- **greatness is helping others succeed...who is around you ...are you helping them succeed or are you competing with them???**

******It is a two fold harvest help others advance and you advance...class was over... they heard the principle... they heard the teaching but they were not receptive to applying it yet...**

They still thought power and position in the Kingdom of Jesus was given to favorites!...Not what Jesus said is the way to gain greatness...you earn it!
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....
- **They will indeed be baptized in the Holy Spirit...and will drink the cup of God's willGod'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...and they will be great in their own right**
⁴⁰ *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?" ²⁸ Jesus replied, "I assure you that when the world is made new^[i] and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ 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 it 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.**
- **When the others heard about this..they were indignant ...probably because they did not ask first...Pride**

- **Now a New Lesson**

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: 42 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..

43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

if you can receptive now 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...

⁴⁵ 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 obedient now...so others would be advance later...

What is a Ransom?... a Ransom is sayng someones life is worth this much...

- **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...advance succeed**
- **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 Be obedient now...you will be great later
end

