**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark, ~ An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

*Jesus Proclaims The Cross and Faith Heals*

*365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 10:32ff*

May 27, In the Year of Our Lord 2018

We must never forget that the number one mission of God’s incarnation is the Cross. God, as Jesus, marching to the Cross is as purposeful as God has ever been in any of His interactions with His creation. Yes, God came to be one of us in order to teach us His Word and the intent and plan for our lives. He came to straighten-out misunderstandings. Jesus constantly redirected misconceptions of Scripture and particularly what it takes to gain eternal life and how to be considered righteous with God. He placed loving Him and your neighbor above the Law (Matthew 22:36-40). He clearly stated that a person’s righteousness had to be greater than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees (Matthew 5:20). He listed ‘poor in spirit’ as the number one qualification to be a citizen in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3). This means humble yourself to God, to His Word, to His will, to His Love.

So, for the second time in the book of Mark, Jesus tells His Disciples that He will go to the Cross. This account in Mark does not reveal a response from the Disciples. However, in Luke, the text does note that the Disciples did not understand Jesus’ teaching, because it was hidden from them.

**Mark 10:32**  They were on the road going up to Jerusalem,

and Jesus was walking on ahead of them;

and they were amazed,

and those who followed were fearful.

And again, He took the twelve aside

and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him,

33 *saying*, (Mark 8:31; Matthew 20:17-19; Luke 18:31-34)

"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the **Son of Man**

Daniel 7:13-14 13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

**Reference:**

In Millard Erickson’s book “The Word Became Flesh”, he does us a great favor in his study on the term “Son of Man” in the Bible. Here, he notes that Jesus’ self-designation as the “Son of Man” is used more than 80 times in the Gospels. He also outlines three applications (pages 18-19, 29-30) which make it obvious that Jesus is claiming to be God. I highly recommend you add the book to your library. Many writers have gone before us giving us a great witness to God’s Word.

1. The Son of Man is at work on earth in a serving role.
2. The Son of Man must suffer, die and rise from the dead.
3. The Son of Man will return in eschatological glory.

**Reference: The Word Became Flesh; Millard J Erickson; Baker Book House 1991 ISBN 0-8010-3208-3**

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."

Luke 18:34 But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of* this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

**Other references to the comprehension of Jesus’ statements being hidden from the Disciples:**

It appears that Jesus withheld the comprehension of some of His statement from the Disciples for their own good. If the Disciples had fully seen what lay in front of them, that is, Jesus’ arrest, trial, crucifixion and death, they may have all run away.

**Luke 9:45** But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they might not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement.

**Mark 9:32** But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

**Luke 2:50** And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

**Luke 24:25** And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

**John 10:6** This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

**John 12:16** These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.

The answer to Jesus’ glorification is found in John 13:31ff.

31 Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

32 if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.

This is at the Last Supper where Judas’ heart was already being used as a tool of Satan. Remember, one of the major accomplishments of God presenting Himself to us as Jesus takes place to bring us the greatest object lesson in history. God can save a human being and transform a person into an eternal being to be with Him for an eternity. Therefore, Jesus is our example. If the man Jesus can be glorified - then we can too. The Glorification of Jesus the man had been in the works from his conception. At the Last Supper, for our benefit, God in the flesh as Jesus points to Himself and points to the Cross. The Last Supper was a notable event in the glorification process. Being glorified contains the ability to completely forgive, to make sacrificial forgiveness. Man betrays God just as man did in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve turning against God and choosing Satan and like Judas did to Jesus. Being glorified is possessing the ability to defeat human betrayal through perfect humility and forgiveness. Jesus demonstrated this all the way to the Cross and beyond. Who shall be first shall be last and who is the last in this fallen world standard will be first in God’s heaven.

**Being glorified** is being able to say from the Cross, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.”

**Being glorified** is possessing the ability to overcome this life and fully achieve what God calls us to do.

**Being glorified** is humbly marching through death, through our cross to our resurrection just like Jesus did. Jesus said for us to take our cross and follow Him.

**Being glorified** is God’s way of separating us from the fallen world to a place where sin and death are no more and there is no tear shed.

Jesus demonstrated glorification, but we will not be glorified until we leave this life behind. Paul writes to the Romans and the Thessalonians.

**Romans 8:14-17** 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

**2 Thessalonians 1:5-12** 5 *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

6 For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

7 and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.

11 To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power;

12 in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus had already announced to them in **Mark 8:31** of His future date with the Cross. At this occurrence, Peter rebuked Jesus.

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself**, and **take up his cross** and follow Me. (Mk. 8:34 NAU)

35 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

**36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?**

**37 "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

**Same account in Matthew 16:21-28**

21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself**, and take up his cross and follow Me.

25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the **Son of Man** coming in His kingdom."

Jesus is constantly teaching the disciples the goal of the incarnation and the goal of humanity: Eternal life! The disciples are too concerned about what happens in this fallen world. Jesus constantly redirects their attention to God’s kingdom, to the next life. Jesus constantly rejects being an earthly messiah. Satan attempted to distract Jesus from His mission as the Messiah who pays the price for the sins of the world. Satan offers Jesus the world, and Jesus not only rejected Satan’s test but also demonstrated to all of us that Satan can be rebuffed by a person with God working inside of them. The test after forty days in the wilderness also highlighted that Satan will take Scripture out-of-context to manipulate our minds and hearts at our weakest times.

**Continuing in Mark 10:35**

James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying,

[In Matthew: the mother of James and John asked Jesus]

"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."

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?"

39 They said to Him, "We are able."

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."

41 Hearing *this*,

**the ten** began to feel indignant 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.

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."**

**RANSOM ~**

**to redeem, to pay a price for, Substitutionary atonement**

**No person can make atonement for another’s sin, only God and Jesus crucified on the Cross makes this eternal statement.**

This parallels “Who is the Greatest” in Luke 9:46ff.

46 And an argument arose among them as to which of them might be the greatest.

47 But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side,

48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for he who is least among you, this is the one who is great."

**Mark 10 Continued**

**Faith Heals Blind Beggar Bartimaeus**

46 Then they came to Jericho.

And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar *named* Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him *here*."

So they called the blind man, saying to him,

"Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."

50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

51 And answering him, Jesus said,

"What do you want Me to do for you?"

And the blind man said to Him,

"Rabboni, *I want* to regain my sight!"

52 And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."

Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Him on the road.

**The Blind man** on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem represents all of us. We are all blind, and God is right next to us. God walks right by us all the time, and we are blind, but we have a choice to see, to ask Him to allow us to see.

The setting and context was that large crowds were on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover. Remember, Jesus goes to the Cross as the sacrificial lamb at Passover. Jesus had people traveling with him, namely the Disciples. It’s very possible someone could have told the blind man that the healer from Galilee named Jesus was about to walk by them. Blind people were common in the first century and by strict Jewish law were not allowed to go into the Temple. They were outcasts. However, this man calls to Jesus, “Son of David.” This title he uses has references in the Old Testament, and, no doubt, this blind man addressing Jesus with the Messianic title caught the attention of the Disciples and the crowd.

**Isaiah 11:1-4 1** Then a shoot will spring from the **stem of Jesse,** **And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.**

2 And **the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him**, (Luke 4) The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (see also Isaiah 9:7)

**Jeremiah 23:5 see also 33:15** 5 "Behold, *the* days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I shall **raise up for David a righteous Branch**; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.

**Ezekiel 34:23-24** 23 "**Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd.** 24 "And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**Mark 12:35-37** 35 And Jesus answering *began* to say, as He taught in the temple**, "How *is it that* the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?**  36 "David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to my LORD, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.'" 37 "David himself calls Him 'Lord'; and *so* in what sense is He his son?" And the great crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

The Blind man sought mercy, for his blindness made him an outcast. He could not enter the Temple, and He looked to Jesus as the authority who could heal his blindness and therefore allow him to enter the Temple to worship.

The blind man represents all of us. In a spiritual reality, all people are blind unless they have asked God to remove their blindness by faith. Before we come to worship, we should pray to God to open our eyes and ears to hear His voice. This man recognized and humbled himself to Jesus as the Messiah. The crowed attempted to silence the blind man, but he persisted, and Jesus received him. God wants our persistence. The crowd, the secular crowd, will always shout to us not to call upon our Lord, but we are to be persistent. If your sight depended on your persistence to God, would you call to him above the clatter of the crowd? The blind man called to Jesus for mercy, but, then again, we all are in a condition to call to God for mercy. The crowd must have had an idea of who Jesus was. The blind man did address Him as “Son of David.” So, when Jesus responded to his plea, “Call him”, the crowd said, “Take courage, stand-up, He is calling you.” What a miracle. The Word says to take courage; God is calling you. Do you see that when God calls we are to stand and take courage? God has a purpose for our lives. God’s does not want us to be blind. The fallen world with sin and death all around us creates physical and spiritual blindness. God seeks for us to call to Him. The number one goal is to heal our spiritual blindness. If we are physically blind due to the fallen world, we shall live Light, in the love of God. He may heal us, or we may have to wait till we join Him in Heaven where there is no need of our physical eyes. Yes, the blind man wanted to physically see. But, before he was healed, he opened His spiritual eyes and called upon the Lord, “Rabboni” (which means master/teacher in its root form “Rabbi”), but the blind man uses the form of the word that calls to a “great” or “dear” teacher or master. At this point, Jesus sees that the blind man possesses real faith, and He simply states “Go; your faith has made you well.”

You may know someone who needs to be told the same thing; who is contemplating hearing from God about their salvation. With these simple words, they will feel the Lord’s mercy: Go; your faith has saved you.

**Hebrews 11:1-3 1** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made from things which are visible.

AMEN