

Calvary Bible College

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Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Part II *cont.* The Servant's Work: Not to be Ministered to, But to Do Ministry. Chapters 1:14–10:52

Class 8

Chapter 9:33 thru Chapter 10

As is our customs we will expand the translations for clarity and interpretation purposes

Joey: The Great Servants Position Themselves Last and Least

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "**What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?**"

-more and more, Jesus is withdrawing from the crowds and ministering to His disciples, preparing them for His and their futures.

34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

Matt. adds here: **18:1** At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

35 And He sat down (*into teaching position*), called the twelve, and said to them, "**If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.**"

-Ok you have told us the characteristics of those who would be first, they will be servant of all, we get that, BUT who is the greatest then ...

36 Then (*connecting to 33-35, not as a separate incident*) He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,

37 "**Whoever receives one of these 'little children' (*one word: paidion*) in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.**"

-The who is 'little children' like this one He is holding!

-What does the **correct** desire to be first look like: actually being last

-So is Jesus referring to little kids or adults who are 'little children'?

-In the future **Heb. 2:13-14** will say this of who these little children are:

13 And again:

"I will put My trust in Him."

And again:

"Here am I and the children (*our word*) whom God has given Me."

14 Inasmuch then as the children (*our word*) have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

-Is the writer of Hebrews speaking of little kids per se or adults?

-John in the future will use this same word 'paidion' in His letter in **1 John 2:18:**

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

-Is John speaking of little kids or adults?

-After His resurrection John will record this from Jesus speaking to His adult disciples:

Jn. 21:5 Then Jesus said to them, “*little Children (paidion), have you any food?*” They answered Him, “No.”
-I believe they understood that they were the ‘little children’ following and believing in Him for John reacts to this teaching as if he was pricked with guilt in v. 38

Matthew’s Account, 18:1-5

John: The Humble Servant Removes the Stumble

38 Now John answered Him, saying,

- Jesus’ admonition of about whoever does not receive one of these ‘little ones’ triggered a memory that John had of an incident in the near past.....
- Notice John understands that Jesus is not talking just about little kids but adults who are His little children!

Here is John’s recollection

v. 38 cont. ... **"Teacher, we** (*includes at least James, likely all of the disciples*) **saw someone** (*one person*) **who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we** (*rejoiced with Him and praised God with him. No! we*) **forbade him because he does not follow us** (*not just you Lord but ‘us’ as well*)."

- ‘Follow’ here is physically follow us in our group....
- In the future he and James would like to call down fire on inhospitable Samaritans who saw that Jesus was heading to Jerusalem and in their minds was not really interested in them, so let’s call for a heavenly bar-b-que
- John’s response is reflective of the elitists attitude of the Scribes and Pharisees
- so beware of the leaven of that attitude, an elitist, superior attitude ...

39 But Jesus said, **"Do not** or stop, all of you (*pl.*) **forbidding him,**

- Or do not forbid such people, not just this man
- Even under the law this elitist attitude was forbidden. **Num. 11:27-29**
 - 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”
 - 28 So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Moses my lord, forbid them!”
 - 29 Then Moses said to him, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!”

v. 39 cont. **for no one who works a miracle in** (*epi, upon*) **My name** (*as foundational authority*) **can soon afterwards speak evil of Me** (*if they were a disgruntled former follower of Jesus, they would not cast out demons in His name*).

- In Jesus’ response, He senses the need on the part of John and the disciples to control the situation and to be sure this man was not abusing His name or using it for their glory and thus speak evil of Jesus

40 "For he who (*is actively using my name*) **is not against us and is on our side.**

-in **Matt. 12:30** Jesus would say, ... **he who is not actively for me is against Me, and he who does not gather with me scatters abroad.**

- Matthew’s statement is clearer as to what it means to. ‘not be against him’
- It is not a neutral position, there are no neutral positions.
- Neutral is in the ‘against’ column

For example, in terms of ‘whoever’ and ‘you’ disciples ...

41 For whoever (*that is not of your circle*) **gives you** (*disciples following me*) **a cup of water to drink in**

My name, because you belong to Christ or you are Christ's,

-One of the rare times that He refers to Himself as 'Christ',

-but this is on the heels of Peter's declaration at Caesarea-Philippi where He declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God! So He now refers to them as belonging to Him!

v. 41 cont. assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

-I will bless those that bless you, even if they are not of your circle

But let me warn the world

42 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble (Scandalize, is the word sin in vs. 43, 45, and 47, scandalize His disciples), it would be better for him if a very heavy millstone (this is the extreme opposite of a floatee!) were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

Instead to the 'whoever's' He says

43 If your hand (as an instrument of stumbling) causes you to sin (actually 'sin' is 'scandalize' against these little ones), cut it off. It is better for you to enter into the life (zao, which is obtained by faith) maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to the hell ('the Gehenna'), into the fire that shall never be quenched—

44 where 'Their worm (the unrepentant stumbler's worm in Gehenna) does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

-To each is appointed a time to die with an undying worm if they do not repent and receive Christ!

45 And if your foot (as a conveyor of the 'whoever stumbler') causes you to sin is 'scandalized', cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

-No amount of water can put out the fire nor quench the thirst of Gehenna

46 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

-Natural worms die and dry up when exposed to a little warm sunlight... not these hell-bred worms (as opposed to hybrid worms! 😊)

-These are supernatural worms that are impervious to fire and heat!

47 And if your eye (eye as the 'desire beholder' of the 'whoever stumbler') causes you to sin (is 'scandalized'), pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into the hell (Gehenna) fire—

48 where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

-Does Jesus take offending or stumbling His children 'away from the faith' or 'into a sinful lifestyle' as a serious offense?

-Jesus is not teaching that if you don't stumble one of His little ones you are saved- that is not the point.

-Nor is He saying if you do stumble them you cannot be saved

-But He is saying that He takes stumbling His little very seriously

-Hopefully this will scare the Hell out of stumblers

-In the future He will say this in **Luke (17:1)**

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!

-Vengeance will be His, let Him handle it who knows perhaps the stumbler will repent and join us!

-Will God do anything to dissuade or restrain these offenses that if unchecked will lead to outer darkness?

-Yes! And having heard the solemn warnings to those who would stumble His little children He now will give the disciples His antidote so that they will not be stumblers themselves

Two groups are spoken of here

49 "For everyone will in the future be seasoned or literally salted with fire (restraint of the H.S.), and every living sacrifice (disciples, because they are people and not animal they are living sacrifices) will be seasoned with flavorful salt.

-When does this salting of restraint and salting to season take place? In the future.

-In the future in a letter to the Thessalonians Paul will speak of the H.S. as a restrainer of evil, a restrainer of stumbling and sin if you will: **2Thes. 2:6-7**

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he (the A.C.) may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

-Not only a restrainer but a convincer. In the future John will tell us two things that Jesus will say:

1-John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

2-John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

-Seasoned with Fire with regards to disciples is associated with being baptized with the H.S. per Matt. 3:11

-Fire in verses 43-47 destroys, torments, but does not annihilate the perishing nor their worms

-Also Fire here in v. 49 purifies that which cannot be destroyed in His disciples

-Fire is either the Holy Spirit or a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

-Baptized with H.S. and Fire, when does this happen? In the future Acts 2

-A sacrifice seasoned with salt is from Lev. 2:13 and applied here to His disciples being seasoned with salt.

-Not their sacrifices, but they themselves,

Can the effectiveness of salt diminish? Can it lose its flavor?

50 Salt is inherently good, but if the salt 'loses its flavor or saltiness', (without what makes salt, salt) how will you season it or use it for seasoning? I command you Have salt within yourselves, and have peace with or in one another and do not strive about who will be first or the 'greatest.'

-How can salt lose its restraining and flavoring characteristics if it is a type of the H.S.?

-By sustained grieving and quenching of the H.S

-In light of His wrath toward stumblers: **The Humble Servant Removes the Stumble**

Matthew's Account, 18:6-11

Chapter 10

Joey: The Servant Answers with the Word when Tested

1 Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan (went the long way instead of thru Samaria). And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.

-His primary purpose was to teach and then He verified that teaching thru His actions

2 The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him.

-To pit Him against the liberal school of divorce versus the conservative school of divorce and thus perhaps cause division between Him and the people

3 And He answered and said to them (*you won't listen to me so...*), "What did Moses command you?"

-Great method: Turn it back on the questioner: 'What does the Word of God say?

4 They said, "Moses permitted (*not commanded*) a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her."

-Very cagey answer.

-Jesus now addresses the 'why' of Moses precept and He makes it very personal to them because the men speaking to Him probably divorced their wives following Moses' precept.

Why? And this applies directly to you Pharisees

5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "**Because of the hardness of your** (*the Pharisees*) **heart he wrote you this precept. 6 But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'**

-Only two genders, one of each gender marries, not two of the same.

-But that is a side teaching here, the main teaching is that divorce literally tears apart what is one!

-Now if adultery has occurred than the act of adultery will tear apart the one flesh before any divorce does.

7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, this is the reason 8 and the two shall become one flesh';

What does one flesh mean? Jesus goes on to explain

v.8 cont. ... so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

-Jesus here is giving God's intent for marriage as well as the realism that in His mind, His created intent, two become one flesh, one flesh when separated means it has to be torn apart!

-We can find Scriptures to justify just about anything, BUT we need to know the Scriptures that best reflect God's intent and plan and will regarding whatever situation we are inquiring about.

-Did the Moses quotation best reflect God's design and intent for Marriage?

9 Therefore what God has joined together (*yoked together*), let not man separate."

-How does the tearing away of the flesh occur? Gradually, seemingly innocently, and before you know it adultery!

Again, the disciples were probably a little taken back by Jesus's hard stance relative to 'their' culture....

10 In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter of divorcing for any reason other than adultery.

11 So He said to them, "**Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.**

12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

-Even though divorced God still considers them married and now thru this marriage adultery has occurred.

Matthew's Account, 19:1-12

John: Servants Must Learn to Receive as a Child

13 Then they brought 'little children' (*paidion*) to Him, that He might touch (*means: to ignite, cause them to burn, to light a lamp in*) them;

-In the future James will give us this picture of His fiery touch:

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles (*our word touch!*)!

In light of this understanding here is what the disciples did

v. 13 cont. but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

14 But when Jesus saw it, **He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.**

15 **Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child (*paidion*) will by no means enter it."**

16 And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them *and dare we add: put His fire in them, and blessed them.*

-How do we fire up the hearts of kids from the outside (hands on) Like Jesus did?

-Luke tells us how in the future **Luke 24:32**

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

-Any prayer ideas for our 'little ones'?

-Servants Must Learn to Receive as a Child

Matthew's Account, 19:13-15

Joey: The Servant Knows How to Use the Law to Pinpoint Sin

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life (*due to being Jewish they felt eternal life it an inherited right, but this rich man had his doubts*)?"

-In the future in Luke a lawyer will ask Him the same question and he gets a different answer, but same answer:

Luke 10:25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

18 So Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call Me good? No one is (*inherently*) good but One, that is, God.**

-So Jesus is either no good or He is God, there is no middle ground!

Then Five 'Do not's', one 'honor', but no 'do this'

19 **You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud, (*cheat thru deception for gain*)'**

-Defraud would be a combination of stealing and lying or bearing false witness for purposes of gain.

'Honor your father and your mother.' "

20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

-But Jesus left out one commandment out that was probably at the heart of his problem: **Ex. 20:17**

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

-Why does Jesus add 'do not defraud'? Could it be that in his covetousness he had self justified defrauding others to gain his riches.

Then Jesus gave Him one negative to do and three positive to dos.....

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved (agapao) him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have (you probably got it from defrauding others) and give to the poor (perhaps the ones you defrauded), and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

22 But he was sad (used only here, means 'shocked' or 'appalled') at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Matthew's Account, 19:16-22

John: The Servant Understands Why His Message is Rejected

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

-It is hard if they refuse to deal with their covetousness (which is idolatry) and defrauding others in a way that keeps them in good standing with 'you shall not steal' and 'you shall not bear false witness'

24 And the disciples were astonished at His words.

-They were formerly disciples of the name and claim it Pharisees!

v.24 cont. ... But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who (are convinced about and thus) trust in the riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

How hard is for, this particular type of rich person?

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a sewing needle (only here and Matt.'s account) than for a 'trust in his riches' rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 And they were greatly astonished (because it is a sewing needle), saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible (no power), but not with God; for with God all things are possible (all power)."

-He gives no further explanation, but after the cross, after the resurrection and with the coming of the Holy Spirit in them and upon them they will understand God's power to save!

And idol needs to be broken and **The Servant Understands Why His Message is Rejected**

Matthew's Account, 19:23-26

Joey: Servants Understand the Losses and Gains of Following Jesus

What is it that we do when we compare ourselves to others, especially those richer?

-The rich man did not forsake all and follow but we sure did ...

28 Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's,

30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions (which shows you are on the right path) --and in the age to come (Kingdom Age and beyond), eternal life. (a life that does not share eternal life with a body of sin)

31 But in the age to come many who are first will be last, and the last first."

-The disciples, and others like them, who, having forsaken all and followed Christ, seemed to be last in this world, will be first in the world to come.

Matthew's Account, 19:16-27-30

John: Servants Must Grasp the Third Day When Hearing of the Days Before It

32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid (*what an incredible mix of emotions*). Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

33 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,

-This won't and cannot happen anywhere else, but in Jerusalem!

v.33 cont. and the Son of Man (not you, just me, man's sinless Son) **will be betrayed** (it will happen no other way) **to the chief priests and to the scribes** (not the Roman's, just the religious leadership, no one else); **and they will condemn Him to death** (and nothing less than that) **and deliver Him to the Gentiles** (Jews and gentiles will be the priests of this sacrifice);

-Jews because they have rejected their cornerstone, Gentiles because they have the authority of capitol punishment that they Jews lost!

34 and they (the gentiles) **will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him** (remember a sacrifice is 'killed' not 'murdered').

-They will do nothing more than these four and all four will be done to Him!

v.34 cont. ... And the third (not the second or fourth) **day He will rise again** (to show that His condemnation and death was not for Himself but for me, and that the Father has accepted His sacrifice for me completely!)."

-Who is in charge?

-The one who knows all, plans all and allows whatever He wants and nothing more, nothing less-that the Scripture be fulfilled.

We as **Servants Must Grasp the Third Day When Hearing of the Days Before It**

Matthew's Account, 20:17-19

Joey: Servants Who Seek First Place Will Always Come in Last

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

36 And He said to them, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**"

37 They said to Him, "**Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.**"

38 But Jesus said to them, "**You do not know or comprehend what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**"

39 They said to Him, "We are able." So, Jesus said to them, "**You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;**

-They will be crucified and buried with Him and risen with Him, BUT He will not flee with them when their Shepherd is struck!

40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared (*Matt. Adds 'by My Father'*)."

41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "**You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.**

-This is the way the world leads, not with servant leadership

43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant (*diakinos*).

44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be *bond* slave of all.

For example

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life (*'psuche' His sinless soul*) **a ransom for many."**

-This is the key verse of Mark!

Matthew's Account, 20:20-28

John: The Servant Sees the Faith in a Blind Man

As we read this note how many acts of faith you see in this passage.

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus,

-I'll bet that Mark may have known this man personally, he is the only writer to name him and his family.

v.46 cont. sat by the road begging (along with another blind man per Matt.).

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David (a Messianic title, see Matt. 12:23), have mercy on me!"

-Why mercy and not grace?

-Is mercy more than just 'not receiving what we do deserve'?

-Yes... mercy here is the compassionate side of God's restraint in Judgment!

-Or while judgment is being held back He is compassionate and wooing the sinner to His table of grace!

Did Jesus respond immediately? ... let's see ...

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but by faith he repeatedly cried out all the more (repeatedly and loudly), "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to Him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

-How fickle the crowd. First, they warn him and tell him to be quiet then they tell him to be of good cheer!

50 And throwing aside his beggar's garment (anticipating he would not need it anymore), he rose (by faith) and came to Jesus (by faith).

51 So Jesus answered (his cry for mercy) and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "My Rabboni, (Matt. Adds 'Lord') that I may receive my sight."

-Matt. adds here: 20: 34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road or way.

-Jesus' way was his way....

Matthew's Account, 20:29-34

Faith does not need eyes, for are we to walk by faith for **The Servant Sees the Faith in a Blind Man**

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Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Part II *cont.* The Servant's Work: Not to be Ministered to, But to Do Ministry. Chapters 1:14–10:52

Class 8

At this point in Mark...Jesus public ministry is almost finished. He is taking the remaining time He has to prepare His disciples for His death and resurrection. They have heard this 3 times and still do not get it.

He is also preparing them to led and serve this future thing called the church. In order to accomplish this, Jesus knew that they needed to understand what it means to have the heart of a servant. They are not there yet...Jesus is taking His remaining time on earth to teach them what that heart looks like in very practical ways.

In our next section...we will see that the disciples relish the things of men:

- Position and greatness

Why? because they don't understand the stages of the Kingdom on earth, they don't understand that the crucifixion process has to occur first

And because they do not understand the Father's plan, they become exceedingly sorrowful BUT they don't remain sorrowful

- Because their minds are elsewhere

They block out what they don't understand (because they are afraid to ask) and fall back on their flawed doctrine that He is going to set up His kingdom now,

- That's what they think and that's why they begin to discuss what their role will be in that kingdom....

The Great Servants Position Themselves Last and Least – Joey

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, (kept on asking) **"What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?"**

Peter's home in Capernaum was Jesus' home when the Twelve were in that city.

The disciples had been disputing about the rank each one of them would have in the kingdom **they expected** the Messiah to set up, they were not thinking about what He has been revealing to them in vs. 31. He's preparing them for the future, but it's a future they don't want. A future they're scared to ask about.

- Guys...your plan is not God's plan

34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

"But they kept on being quiet." Very unusual for this group 😊

The disciples' inability to comprehend Jesus' destiny and its significance, matches their inaccurate understanding of their own futures. Everyone, but John is martyred

- Driven by their own selfish ambition
 - Ambition is not wrong, but when it becomes motivated by self, that is what makes it wrong.

35 And He sat down (a teaching position), called the twelve, and said to them, **"If anyone desires to be first** (foremost), **he shall be last of all and servant** (this is someone who seeks to enrich someone else's life) **of all."**

Matthew adds here: **18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"**

- Ok you have told us the characteristics of those who would be first, they will be servant of all, we get that, BUT who is the greatest then ...
- School is in session and the subject is humility.
 - We need to be constantly taught and reminded about humility.
 - Do you seek to enrich someone else's life rather than have them enrich yours?

So...who does Jesus think the greatest is?

36 Then (connecting to 33-35) He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,

Jesus uses this child to teach His disciples. The answer to the question as to who is greatest, is found in the character of the child. Like the one Jesus is currently holding

Who is the greatest? “the most childlike and trustful, the least self-conscious and self-sufficient. The person who is dependent and doesn't mind being dependent. The humble person...those people are the greatest.

Matthew 19:14 New Living Translation (NLT)

But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”

37 "Whoever receives one of these 'little children' (one word: *paidion*) in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

-the who is 'little children' like this one He is holding!

-Little children are not bickering or jockeying about who is #1

-What does the desire to be first look like: actually, being last

-In the future **Heb. 2:13-14** will say this of who these little children are:

13 And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”

And again:

“Here am I and the children (*our word*) whom God has given Me.”

14 Inasmuch then as the children (*our word*) have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

-Is the writer of Hebrews speaking of little kids per se or adults?

-John in the future will use this same word 'paidion' in His letter in **1 John 2:18:**

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

-Is John speaking of little kids or adults?

-After His resurrection John will record this from Jesus speaking to His adult disciples:

John 21:5 Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.”

-I believe they understood that they were the 'little children' following and believing in Him for John reacts to this teaching as if he was pricked with guilt in v. 38

The Great Servants Position Themselves Last and Least

– Being great in God's Kingdom is a race to the back of the line

○ It's the attitude of... what can I do or how can I help others move forward

Matthew's Account, 18:1-5

The Humble Servant Removes the Stumble - John

38 Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

Jesus corrects the wrong perception

39 But Jesus said, "**Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.**

40 "For he who is not against us is on our side.

– No middle ground

41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

42 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

44 where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

46 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—

48 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

49 "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.

50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."

Matthew's Account, 18:6-11

b.

Chapter 10

The Servant Answers with the Word when Tested - Joey

1 Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.

- Jesus never gets tired of teaching others
 - Even when He knows why they've come to Him like we will see in the next few verses

2 The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him. (putting His character on trial)

There are looking for material to entrap Him

- They have already plotted in their hearts to kill Him and now they are moving in for the kill.
- On the Attack again
 - Mark 7:5
 - Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"
 - Lesson: it's not what goes in but what comes out of the heart that causes defilement
 - Mark 8:11
 - Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.
 - Lesson: you haven't believed in what you have already heard and seen that testify to who I AM!
- Now...the subject matter is divorce

3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

Who is Moses to the Pharisees?

- The Grand Poohbah
 - He is the Law...the voice they like to listen to other than their own
 - Jesus knows that He doesn't have their ear, because they don't have ears to hear, so he takes them back to what they would listen to
 - He answers their question with a question

4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her."

Deuteronomy 24:1

New King James Version (NKJV)

Law Concerning Divorce

24 "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a **certificate of divorce**, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

Moses did not command divorce; Moses permitted it and Jesus is going to remind them of why Moses permitted it.

Rabbi Hillel taught that it was a *righteous duty* to divorce your wife if she displeased you in any way.

- Moses permitted it to restrain behavior that was already in practice.

Why did Moses permit divorce...vs 5

5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "**Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.**

the hardness...could also mean coldness, inflexibility, stubbornness

What was the problem back then? hardness of your heart

What's the problem today? Hardness, coldness, inflexibility, stubbornness of heart

- This is a real enemy in our marriages... **hardness** coldness, inflexibility, stubbornness **of your heart.**
- Our hearts are the problem...people want to blame in on other external things or people

What are some things that contribute to this condition?

- Pride
- Forgiveness
- Bitterness
- Arrogance
- Unmet expectations

- Unresolved conflict
 - Proverbs 18:2...Seeking to understand verses being understood

News flash:

You and I are sinner's and guess who we married? A sinner, so guess what's going to happen from time to time in our marriages? We are going to sin against each other...What do we do when that happens? Ask for forgiveness from the Father and from your spouse...Forgive as we have been forgiven!

- The gospel gives us fresh starts and new beginnings! AMEN!

I think that Jesus spells out for us that the characteristics of this spiritual heart condition as an inability to see, understand, hear, and remember.

- Does this describe the problem that the Pharisees had?
 - They plotting entrapment and murder for the Savior of the World
 - God who has come to them in the flesh

The problem that the Pharisees had was not that they did not understand the law about divorce. Their problem was that they did not understand what God said about *marriage*.

6 But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'

- This is God's definition of marriage
 - This is how God defines marriage...He defines marriage since He created it and instituted it...our culture has no say in this matter

7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,

Your Priority....leave and cleave to your wife. Cut the cord of dependency
Our wives should be the #1 person to us on the planet...Is it seen in our actions?

8 and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

- God did not create us to be each other's enemies...We are a team operating as one unit under His direction and His care. The Father views us as one
 - It's no longer about I, but WE!

9 Therefore what God has joined together,

- God attends our marriage ceremonies...

let not man separate."

- Marriage is about longevity...don't allow anyone to pull you apart
 - especially you!
- The culture says that the grass is greener on the other side

- God's word says that the grass gets greener where you water it

10 In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter.

- They had more questions about divorce and marriage

11 So He said to them, "**Whoever divorces his wife** (Matthew 19:9 "except for except for sexual immorality) **and marries another commits adultery against her.**

12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

God hates divorce, but it happens. Christians get divorced

- Sometimes it's not your fault and sometimes it is
 - o God's grace and his forgiveness is real
 - Love covers a multitude of sin
 - Rejection of Jesus is the only sin that won't be forgiven

The Servant Answers with the Word when Tested

- The Word was Jesus defense; not carefully crafted persuasive words

We all see view children in a certain way...how does Jesus view them?

Matthew's Account, 19:1-12

Servants Must Learn to Receive as a Child - John

13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

14 But when Jesus saw it, **He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.**

- This is our mission in the Children's Ministry and as parents
 - o Bring our kids to Jesus

15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

- Trust God like a child trusts their parents
 - o Faith is seen very clearly in the heart of a child
 - They believe what we say

- They trust us to catch them when they jump off something
- 16 And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.
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Matthew's Account, 19:13-15

The Servant Knows How to Use the Law to Pinpoint Sin - Joey

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what (Matthew 19:16 adds... good thing) shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

- This account is known as the rich young ruler because of details we get in the other Gospels.
 - He has everything going for him from the world's perspective.
 - He's got youth, a high position and lots of money
- What good thing do I have to do to inherit eternal life? That's a good question!
 - Will he like or respond to the answer?
 - He's looking to his own works in order to earn salvation

18 So Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call Me good (perfect)? No one is good (inherently good) but One, that is, God.**

Is Jesus denying His deity here? Of course Not!

Is He denying that He is good?

- You called me good, which I AM, but do you know what you are saying when you say that I am good?
- Do you understand that I am good because I AM God!
 - And there is only One that is good?
 - Which one of us standing here do you think that is?
 - He want this rich young ruler to see his sin and see that God is good.
 - We know that God is good all the time!

19 You know the commandments: '**Do not commit adultery,**' '**Do not murder,**' '**Do not steal,**' '**Do not bear false witness,**' '**Do not defraud,** (*cheat thru deception for gain*)' '**Honor your father and your mother.**' "

- These are commandments 6-10, which deal with how we treat others

- All the commandments on the 2nd tablet

20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

- "I'm a good person"

Jesus show him what is he is lacking

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,

Jesus was filled with compassion for this man because his life was so empty. He had everything the world said was important, but it wasn't enough, which is why we ran to Jesus in the first place. To find something he didn't have.

"One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

Jesus knows how to get to the heart of the matter doesn't He!

- He can look inside our deceitful and desperately wicked hearts and identify the thing that is holding us back from receiving Him and following Him.

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

In vs, 19 Jesus did not mention any of the first tablet laws that deals with man's relationship with God.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not make any graven image or likeness of things in heaven to bow down to them and worship them.
3. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
4. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

The rich Young ruler acknowledged that he had kept all the second tablet commandments from his youth up, his relationship with his fellowman was O.K.

- It was his relationship with God that was not right.

The one thing he lacked was a single-hearted devotion to God commanded by the first of the Ten Commandments.

- You shall have no other gods before Me.

He loved his riches more than he loved God. The one thing that prevented this man from having eternal life was the security he felt because of his wealth

- His great riches were keeping him from coming and taking up his cross and following Jesus
- He was more concerned with earthly treasures than in God’s heavenly treasures. Money was his God, which violates the 1st commandment.

Matthew 6:24 New King James Version (NKJV)

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

The Servant Knows How to Use the Law to Pinpoint Sin

- The rich Young Ruler was ok on the 2nd tablet, not on the 1st one

John will cover the difficulty that comes with riches...

Matthew’s Account, 19:16-22

The Servant Understands Why His Message is Rejected – John

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, **"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"**

- Riches can be a stumbling block to prevent someone from receiving salvation

24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them,

"Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

- The problem isn’t the riches...the problem is in what’s being trusted
 - Are we trusting in the riches or trusting in God?

1 Timothy 6:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

Instructions to the Rich

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches (they fly away 😊) but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a sewing needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 And they were greatly astonished (*because it is a sewing needle*), saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

– This opposed their worldview, which is why they were scratching their head

27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "**With men it is impossible** (*no power*), **but not with God; for with God all things are possible** (*all power*)."

Matthew's Account, 19:23-26

Servants Understand the Losses and Gains of Following Jesus – Joey

28 Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

– HEY...That's what we did, so what's in it for us?

29 So Jesus answered and said, "**Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—**(following Him is not going to be easy) **and in the age to come, eternal life.**

We receive reward here, while on earth and reward in Heaven when you do what you do for **Christ sake and the gospels sake.**

- These rewards are not always financial
 - God rewards us in different ways.

Principle: We can't out give God because He will not be in debt to anyone.

- You'll never regret following the Lord or making sacrifices for His sake.
 - It's going to be difficult, but it's all going to be worth.

31 But in the age to come many who are first will be last, and the last first."

The Rich Young Ruler looks like he's first. He's got the great job and all the toys. The disciples are the crazy one's. Some of them left successful business in order to follow Jesus. They have made sacrifices and it's been hard. This world would see them as last. Jesus just said that this is not how it works according to heaven,

- The disciples, and others like them, who, having forsaken all and followed Christ, seemed to be last in this world, will be first in the world to come.
- If you have the heart of the servant...this is not going to bother you
 - o Because you understand that being great in God's Kingdom is a race to the back of the line

Servants Understand the Losses and Gains of Following Jesus

- All who sacrifice for the Lord and the gospel will be rewarded, but God's way and timing of rewarding may not match up with man's way and timing of being rewarded. Following Him and sacrificing for Him will be hard, but well worth it!
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Matthew's Account, 19:16-27-30

Servants Must Grasp the Third Day When Hearing of the Days Before It - John

32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem,

- Obediently walking out front towards the Fathers will with determination to please The Father

and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid.

- They didn't allow their fear to keep them from following Christ
 - o There are times when we are afraid of where Christ is leading us or we are afraid of what he is asking us to do.

Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

33 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man (the humanity of Christ) will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles;

- Think about being condemned to death for doing absolutely nothing
 - o The people leading the charge in this effort
 - People who were supposed to be representing Him (The Pharisees)
 - One of your own...one of your professed family members (Judas)

34 and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

- The suffering doesn't have the last word...His resurrection does!
 - Pain is temporary, but eternity is forever
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Matthew's Account, 20:17-19

Servants Who Seek First Place Will Always Come in Last - Joey

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

Jesus just got done pouring out his heart and telling them about the suffering and shame that's quickly approaching.

- James and John can't stop thinking about themselves
 - o Isn't this how we pray sometimes?
 - Lord, you're awesome and you do awesome things, and since you do awesome things, do this awesome thing for me and give me what I want 😊

Notice how Jesus responds to their request. Probably not how we would answer them

36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

- He didn't rebuke for thinking about themselves
 - o Jesus is gracious with us even in our self-centeredness

37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

- We want positions of honor in your Kingdom
 - o Why do we feel the need to have power or recognition?

38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know (comprehend) what you ask.

- You don't really know what you are signing up for by asking me this?
 - o People who want to be in leadership. So they can run elbows with the pastors
 - o Sometimes we don't understand the price tag that comes what we ask for?

Are you able to drink the future cup that I myself will drink, and be baptized with the future baptism that I am will be baptized with?"

Garden of Gethsemane - take this cup from me...cup of my Father's wrath. The cup of suffering. Can you drink of that cup?

Baptism - to be immersed...Are you willing to be immersed in the suffering that I will be immersed in?

- You want the power, the glory, the recognition and the honor
 - o But are you willing to go through the suffering that comes with it?

What didn't these two disciples understand about their request to sit in the places of honor where Jesus would rule?

They didn't know that their request to participate in Jesus' glory was also a request to share in his painful destiny conveyed by the images of the cup and baptism.

This is a destiny that belonged exclusively to the unique messianic mission of the Son of Man. They probably would not have made their request if they had understood what the kingdom was really like and how its high places are bestowed

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

How many times have we overestimated our own strength?

- I got this

So, Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;

You want it...you got it

In the future...James is the first of the 12 to be martyred for his faith (Acts 12:2)

In the future...John is boiled in hot oil and exiled to the island of Patmos where he received the "Revelation" of Jesus Christ

40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared (Matt. Adds 'by My Father')."

- We can't give what is not ours to give

41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

- We are you guys trying to secure those positions of honor?
 - o Implies that they wanted them as well

Jesus wants to change their perspective...they want the positions of honor

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

- That is worldly leadership
- This is the way people lead that don't know me
- Authoritative leadership vs. servant leadership

43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

- God does not want us leading like the world leads.

44 And whoever of you desires to be first

- You want to be important, prominent, you want to status. This is how you get it...this is true greatness

shall be *bond* slave of all.

- a bondservant

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life (*psuche'* His sinless soul) a ransom for many."

- Key verse...Christ mission statement
- Take a page from my book...I'm going to show you what this really looks like when we get to Jerusalem
 - o Do you have a desire to be served or to serve others?
 - Christians have that mindset today
 - What are you going to do for me in this service?
 - o Entertain me
 - o Make me laugh
 - o Make me feel better

Servants Who Seek First Place Will Always Come in Last

Matthew's Account, 20:20-28

The Servant Sees the Faith in a Blind Man – John

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind **Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus**, sat by the road begging.

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. **Then they called the blind man, saying to Him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."**

50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, (*Matt. Adds 'Lord'*) that I may receive my sight."

52 Then Jesus said to him, "**Go your way; your faith has made you well.**" And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road *or way*.

Matthew's Account, 20:29-34

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Name: _____

Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352 Homework for Class #8

List at least one personal application not mentioned in class under each of our paragraph headings.

10:1-12: The Servant Answers with the Word when Tested

10:13-16: Servants Must Learn to Receive as a Child

10:17-22: The Servant Knows How to Use the Law to Pinpoint Sin

10:23-27: The Servant Understands Why His Message is Rejected

10:28-31: Servants Understand the Losses and Gains of Following Jesus

10:32-34: Servants Must Grasp the Third Day When Hearing of the Days Before It

10:35-45: Servants Who Seek First Place Will Always Come in Last

10:46-52: The Servant Sees the Faith in a Blind Man