

20:17-34

- **REVIEW...**
 - FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
 - SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
 - THIRD - The Rejection of the King - **Matthew 19-25**
 - Get to work...
 - Jesus gave a Kingdom Parable about a DAYS wage...
 - The master went hired men in the morning [6am] to go work in His VINEYARD...
 - He went back out at 9am - 12pm - 3pm - and 5pm - each time sending more out to work...
 - Because the HARVEST is plentiful - but the WORKERS are few - **Matthew 9:37**
 - First and Last...
 - When the HARVEST was done [6pm] the laborers were called in to get their salary...
 - Those who had ONLY worked ONE hour - were paid the same as those who worked ALL day...
 - This caused some to COMPLAIN - they thought they deserved MORE...
 - But there was only ONE reward - and everyone got the SAME amount [first shall be last]
 - Because it is not about what we GET [crown] - it is about what we go to GIVE [Gospel]!
- **1ST - To THE CROSS... vs. 17-19**
 - 1st - Final Trip... vs. 17
 - Now Jesus going up to Jerusalem!
 - Jerusalem is about 750 meters above sea level - higher than everything else around...
 - So no matter where you are coming from - you always go UP to Jerusalem!
 - This no doubt seemed like an ordinary trip for the Disciples...
 - They were traveling to the Holy City to celebrate just as they did every year - **Exodus 23:14-17**
 - As they went to sacrifice their LAMB to remember how God delivered them from Egypt...
 - No doubt they went up SINGING the SONGS of ascent - **Psalms 120-134**
 - **Psalm 122:1** - "I will lift up my eyes to the hills... My help comes from the LORD."
 - What the DISCIPLES did NOT realize - this was the FINAL trip for Jesus...
 - Because He was going to be the LAMB that was sacrificed to set them free!
 - 2nd - The Plan... vs. 17-19
 - Nothing hidden... vs. 17-18
 - [Jesus] took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them:
 - Behold we are going up to Jerusalem!
 - Jesus took the TWELVE aside - because He wanted them to UNDERSTAND...
 - LOOK [imperative] - they were going up to Jerusalem but this time would be DIFFERENT...
 - This is HUGE - because it means Jesus considered them as FRIENDS!
 - **John 15:15** - "No longer do I call you servants - for a servant does not know what his master is doing - but I have called you friends for all things... I have made known to you."
 - God does NOT leave us in the dark when it comes to His plans...
 - He calls us FRIENDS - and therefore tells us EVERYTHING...
 - The question is are we paying ATTENTION to what He says!
 - Crucified... vs. 18-19
 - The Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes.
 - And they will condemn Him to death.
 - Deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify!
 - Jesus KNEW He would be BETRAYED [παραδίδωμι] - and WHO would do it [Judas]

- He KNEW the chief PRIESTS [Caiaphas] and SCRIBES would condemn Him to death...
- They would BETRAY [παραδίδωμι] their KING - and turn Him over to PAGANS...
- He KNEW those GENTILES would mock [Herod] and SCOURGE [Pilate] Him...
- And He KNEW that in the END - they would CRUCIFY Him - **Psalm 22:16**
- Yet in spite of all He KNEW - Jesus still was willing to go UP to Jerusalem!
- Because He also KNEW there was NO other way for us to be SAVED...
- We are all SINNERS - and it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to get to heaven - **Matthew 19:26**
- Therefore the ONLY answer was for Him to be the LAMB who died to save us!
- **II Corinthians 5:21** - "God made Christ who never sinned - to be the offering for our sin - so that we could be made right with God."
- Resurrected... vs. 19
 - And the third day He will rise again!
 - But Jesus also KNEW - the story did NOT end with His CRUCIFIXION...
 - Because on the THIRD day - He would [indicative] RISE again!
 - The GOOD news is NOT that Jesus died - everybody does...
 - The GOOD news is the DEATH is NOT the end - through Jesus we have VICTORY!
 - **I Corinthians 15:55-57** - "O Death where is your sting? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- 2ND - BECOMING THE GREATEST... vs. 20-28
 - 1ST - Wrong question... vs. 20-22
 - Ulterior motive... vs. 20
 - Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons.
 - Kneeling down and asking something from Him!
 - Then the MOTHER of James and John [sons of Zebedee] came to Jesus...
 - She WORSHIPED [προσκυνέω] Him - because she wanting Him to do a FAVOR...
 - Her BOYS followed up by asking Jesus to do WHATEVER they asked!
 - **Mark 10:35** - "Teacher we want You to do for us whatever we ask."
 - Too often people come to Jesus with the wrong mindset...
 - They think if they WORSHIP - if they are at CHURCH on Sunday - then God owes them...
 - Then they can ask ANYTHING they want - and He has to say yes!
 - Selfish wish... vs. 21
 - [Jesus] said to her: What do you wish?
 - She said to Him: Grant that these two sons of mine may sit.
 - One on Your right hand and the other on the left in Your kingdom!
 - Jesus asked her [and the BOYS] - what was their WISH [θέλω]
 - She [they] wanted to SIT [subjunctive] on the right and left hand of Jesus in the KINGDOM!
 - If we think of God as some kind of GENIE - rub the lamp we He will grant our WISH...
 - We are going to be very DISAPPOINTED with the results...
 - God does NOT grant WISHES - He is our LORD - we do what HE wants...
 - And if we come to Him with SELFISH desires - God make me RICH - silence will be His reply!
 - **James 4:3** - "You ask [but] you do not get it because your motives are all wrong!" [NLT]
 - Missing the point... vs. 22
 - Jesus answered and said: You do not know what you ask!
 - Jesus was quick to point out the FLAW in their WISH...
 - They did not SEE [εἶδω] what their WISH would cost them!
 - We might acknowledge that SELFISH prayers do NOT get answered...
 - But what about SELFLESS prayers - healing a sick friend - why does GOD still NOT answer...
 - Yet that sick friend we want healed - might ONLY come to Jesus because of their TRIAL!

- We do NOT know what will happen to tomorrow - we do NOT see the END...
 - That is why prayer is NOT about coming to God with our WISHES...
 - It is about us coming to the Lord [master] asking Him for His WISDOM!
- o 2nd - Counting the Cost... vs. 22-23
- The Cup...
 - Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink!
 - Jesus asked them if they had the POWER [δύναμαι] to do TWO things:
 - FIRST - take the CUP that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to DRINK...
 - The CUP that Jesus was talking about was the WRATH of God - **Revelation 14:10**
 - Because someone had to PAY the price for SIN!
 - When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to PRAY to the Father...
 - His simple request was for the LORD to take this CUP [wrath] from Him...
 - But in the end Jesus concluded with - NOT My will but Yours be done - **Luke 22:42**
 - He could have walked away at any point - and avoided death...
 - But Jesus was OBEDIENT to the WILL of God – and offered His life for our SINS!
 - **Hebrews 5:8** - “He was a Son - yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.”
 - The Baptism...
 - And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?
 - SECOND - did they have the POWER [δύναμαι] to be BAPTIZED...
 - The BAPTISM Jesus was talking about - was His DEATH on the cross!
 - The picture of BAPTISM is DEATH - being BURIED under the water...
 - But it is also a picture of new LIFE - coming up out of the water!
 - **Romans 6:4** - “We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead... even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
 - Everything... vs. 22-23
 - They said to Him: We are able! So He said to them:
 - You will indeed drink My cup - be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with!
 - James and John were quick to foolishly reply - they had the POWER [δύναμαι]
 - But they were NOT thinking about WRATH [cup] and DEATH [baptism]
 - More likely they were thinking about DINNER [cup] and a BATH [baptism]
 - Yet Jesus ominously told them they would indeed choose [deponent] to DRINK His cup...
 - And in the end they would [passive] be BAPTIZED [die] for His name!
 - James would become the FIRST of the apostle to be MARTYRED - **Acts 12:2**
 - And although John would live to be an old man - he gave his life for the Lord!
 - We come to the Lord - NOT to get what we want [because we do NOT know what is best]
 - We come instead choosing to LAY down our will - and instead SUBMIT to His...
 - We come to DIE to ourselves - and chose to LIVE for Jesus...
 - Because we know that NEW life only comes when the Lord is the one in control!
- o 3rd - Jealousy... vs. 23-24
- The Father... vs. 23
 - 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 by My Father!
 - Jesus does NOT choose who will SIT on His right and left...
 - Because it is the FATHER - who CHOSE [perfect] Jesus to SIT on His RIGHT hand!
 - **Mark 16:19** - “Jesus... was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”
 - Not happy... vs. 24
 - When the ten heard it - they were greatly displeased with the two brothers!
 - When the other TEN disciples heard the conversation - they were DISPLEASED...
 - DISPLEASED [ἀγανακτέω] - to be VERY unhappy...

- They were JEALOUS of the request of James and John...
- Because they likely wished they had been the ones to ask it FIRST!
- Do NOT miss the FOOLISHNESS of this whole conversation...
- Jesus had just told the DISCIPLES that He is heading to the CROSS...
- Which James and John completely missed - and instead started talking about THRONES [sit]
- And in the END it caused JEALOUSY among the disciples...
- All because they did NOT understand why Jesus was going to Jerusalem!
- UNITY in the church comes from when we all LISTEN to Jesus...
- DIVISION in the church comes from when we seek after what we WANT!
- James 4:1 - "What is causing the quarrels and fights? They come from [your] evil desires!" [NLT]

o 4th - Called to Serve... vs. 25-28

- Repeated lesson... vs. 25
 - Jesus called them to Himself and said:
 - Jesus called the DISCIPLES to Him - seeing the opportunity to REPEAT an important lesson...
 - This is the SECOND of THREE times He had to teach this lesson...
 - The final time they would argue this would be AFTER the last supper - **Luke 22:24**
 - God is VERY patient with us - He is willing to REPEAT lessons [as many times as needed]
 - But there is WISDOM in paying attention to what God is trying to teach us...
 - Because we will NOT grow - until we grasp the lesson the Lord is trying to give to us!
- Heavenly greatness... vs. 25-27
 - You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them.
 - And those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you.
 - But whoever desires to become great among you let him be your servant.
 - And whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave!
 - In the WORLD [ἔθνος] - those who RULE - will lord [κυριεύω] it over others...
 - And those who are GREAT [μέγας] - have POWER over others [ἐξουσιάζω]
 - But it must NOT [οὐ] be that way in the CHURCH...
 - If we want [θέλω] to be GREAT [μέγας] - we MUST [imperative] be a SERVANT [διάκονος]
 - If we want [θέλω] to be FIRST [πρῶτος] - we MUST [imperative] be a SLAVE [δοῦλος]!
 - GREATNESS in the world is like a PYRAMID – with the most powerful on TOP...
 - But GREATNESS to God – flips the PYRAMID upside down!
 - We do NOT relate a SLAVE with GREATNESS – we still think like the WORLD...
 - GREATNESS to us is MONEY - and POWER - telling others what to do...
 - GREATEST to God is the person who empties the trash - cleans the bathroom...
 - The question is do we want to be GREAT in the world - or in God!
- The Greatest of all... vs. 28
 - Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served - but to serve.
 - And to give His life a ransom for many!
 - Jesus has every right to be SERVED [διάκονος] – He is God almighty...
 - But He did NOT [οὐ] come to be SERVED [passive] - but to SERVE [active]
 - He came to be our RANSOM [λύτρον] - pay the DEBT for our SIN...
 - Which is why Jesus is the GREATEST in the kingdom!

● 3rd - OPENING EYES... vs. 29-34

o 1st - Prideful city... vs. 29

- Now as they went out of Jericho!
- Jericho sits at the north end of the Dead Sea - near the Jordan River...
- It was along the main road that led from the Galilee to Jerusalem!
- It was a PROUD city - known for its formidable walls...
- But those walls FELL - because in their PRIDE they refused to LISTEN to God - **Joshua 6:20**

- It is NOT an accident that this PRIDEFUL debate of the disciples took place in this city...
 - Because when we do NOT listen - moved by PRIDE - it always leads to RUIN!
 - **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride goes before destruction - and a haughty spirit before a fall."
- o 2nd - Be quiet... vs. 29-31
- Two men... vs. 30
 - A great multitude followed Him - and behold two blind men sitting by the road.
 - When they heard that Jesus was passing by cried out saying:
 - Have mercy on us - O Lord - Son of David!
 - Jesus was moving with the CROWD as they made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem...
 - Matthew tells us there were TWO blind men sitting [ignored] beside the road...
 - But Mark gives us the name of the ONE who spoke - BARTIMAEUS - **Mark 10:46**
 - BARTIMAEUS - His name means the son [בן] of the UNCLEAN [טמא]
 - He cried out [κράζω] - begging [imperative] Jesus to have MERCY [ἐλέεω] on them...
 - He called Him Lord [κύριος] - and Son of David [Messianic title]!
 - Crying out...
 - Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet.
 - But they cried out all the more saying: Have mercy on us - O Lord - Son of David!
 - The CROWD was NOT happy with them - and told them they should [subjunctive] be QUIET...
 - But all the more the CRIED out [imperfect] - asking for MERCY!
 - We are all UNCLEAN [טמא] - and none of us have a RIGHT to call out to Jesus...
 - And the world will be quick to REMIND us of our FLAWS...
 - When we PRAY to Jesus - they question WHY would God answer us...
 - But all the MORE we should be CALLING out to Jesus - because He is MERCIFUL!
- o 3rd - Following Jesus... vs. 32-34
- The question... vs. 32-33
 - Jesus stood still and called them and said: What do you want Me to do for you?
 - They said to Him: Lord that our eyes may be opened!
 - Jesus STOPPED - and asked them what was their WISH [θέλω]
 - They did NOT want [θέλω] to SIT on His right hand or on His left...
 - All they wanted [θέλω] - was for the Lord [κύριος] to open their EYES so they could see!
 - Answered prayer... vs. 34
 - Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes.
 - Immediately their eyes received sight - and they followed Him!
 - Jesus had MERCY [σπλαγχνίζομαι] on them - and touched their eyes...
 - IMMEDIATELY their eyes were opened - they could SEE Jesus...
 - And as a RESULT - they began to FOLLOW Him - to the CROSS!
 - **Luke 9:23** - "If anyone desires to come after Me let him deny himself - and take up his cross daily - and follow Me."
 - We do NOT come to Jesus so we can ask for ANYTHING we want...
 - We come to Jesus because we are UNCLEAN - we are BLIND - and we want to SEE...
 - We want to SEE Him - so we can DENY ourselves - and LIVE for God...
 - Because the Christian walk is NOT about being the GREATEST...
 - It is about showing people Jesus - who loves us so much - He died to SAVE us!