

**March 24, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church**

**Message Series: The Gospel of Mark**

**Week 39: “Take Heart. Get Up; He is Calling You”**

**Text: Mark 10:32-52**

We’re unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. The Gospel writer’s audience is Roman believers and he really focuses on presenting Jesus as the Messiah King and Suffering Servant and works to answer three questions “who is Jesus?”, “what did Jesus come to do?”, and “what does Jesus expect of you?”

There are three different studies going back to 2007 that conclude that the number one desire of kids growing up today is to be famous. It’s not about wanting a particular profession as much as it is about being known and famous. Whether it’s being a YouTuber, vlogger, or winning American Idol, kids growing up today want to be famous more than anything else. This isn’t a different desire than in generations past so much as a different path to get there. Kids have always wanted to be things like a professional singer, athlete, or President, but now it’s more about the fame than the profession. Rewind about two-thousand years and we find Jesus’ disciples wanting to be known. They too wanted have some sense of authority, power, or fame.

Let’s READ our TEXT

This is the third time that Jesus tells His disciples about His suffering, death, and resurrection and each time they respond selfishly and Jesus teaches them about true greatness. Jesus is headed to Jerusalem and they thought that when Jesus got there that He was going to establish an earthly kingdom and they would be ruling alongside of Him. James and John decide to get in line first and ask for the two highest positions in this kingdom. They even ask in a rather bold way. Jesus asked them if they really think they can handle what’s He’s about to go through and they think they are. Jesus tells them they will do through what He is about to, but what they want is not His to give, and then lays out for them the path to being great. Interestingly enough, James will be the first apostle to die for His faith, and John will mostly likely be the last. Jesus’ response and the account that ends this chapter with Jesus healing a blind man help us understand that...

***The cross and resurrection of Jesus are not about trying to live a better life, but about being redeemed to live a transformed life.***

**The Cross & Resurrection of Jesus are...**

✓ **Not About Trying to Live a Better Life – v 35-41**

- Telling Jesus what we deserve
- As though He is way to something better
- Responding sinfully when we don’t get it

The disciples really like the idea of where Jesus can take them and what He can do for them. In their minds He is about to be king of Israel and the most powerful man on the planet and they are on the inside. They were ambitious. They desired greatness, but didn’t understand what greatness is or how to get there. They wanted glory and recognition and saw Jesus as the quickest resource to get there. In their mind Jesus was their path to greatness and they deserved this. In my own experience I don’t notice this tendency to think I am deserving of certain things from God as much until something goes in a direction I wasn’t planning or didn’t want. It can be as simple as when appliances or cars break down and mess up my budget, or kids get sick and mess up my schedule, or people act goofy and mess up my plans. When these things happen it reveals something in me that I think God should cause things to go a certain way for me, because of what I feel I deserve. And when things don’t go that way, I may get frustrated or impatient. For some reason I feel like I should be spared from inconvenience or difficulty. Hard or unplanned things shouldn’t just pop up on my schedule or in my life.

“Lord, I’m trying to be faithful and grow in loving you and loving people, but difficult things keep happening and silly people keep doing silly things.” **The biggest loss in all of this is that for a moment or season I thought of Jesus as the keeper of my calm rather than the King of my heart. We struggle to see that difficult circumstances and silly people are two of the best ways to see if we are truly desiring to love Jesus and grow in faithfulness to Him.** He is not my butler, my manager, my assistant, my servant to help me be a slightly better version of myself. He is my King, my Redeemer, my Savior, my Lord and my God. He is not a way to a better life. He is life! The cross and resurrection are not a self-help resource, but are...

✓ **About Being Redeemed – v 32-34, 45-52**

- Call on Jesus for mercy
- Follow Jesus in humility

Redeem: to gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment. Jesus tells His disciples about His death and resurrection on at least three recorded instances, and in verse 45 He says that His death is to be a “ransom for many”. If you have been taken captive by a hostile enemy or criminal, and are given one conversation with the person that can rescue you, do you demand glory or cry out for mercy? Bartimaeus knew something of who Jesus was. His crying out, “Jesus, Son of David” was a phrase that meant he knew Jesus was the Messiah, the Sent One of God. Listen to this, **he doesn’t let the difficulty of his circumstance or the discouragement of others stop him from calling out to Jesus.** There’s something in that for us. Bartimaeus wasn’t blind for a few days or months. It was likely most all of his life, but “when he heard that it was Jesus” he was filled with a hope that wouldn’t stop. He is blind but has spiritual sight. The disciples can see, but are spiritually blind in this moment. Then Bartimaeus heard these words, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you”. No one thought he was worthy, but that didn’t matter. They couldn’t help him anyway. He still calls out to Jesus for mercy and only the one capable of redeeming him is the one that calls him. Jesus asks him the same question He asked James and John, “What do you want me to do for you?” He humbly asks for mercy in the form of healing as opposed to the disciples arrogantly asking for glory. Jesus heals Bartimaeus and he begins to follow of Jesus. Obviously Bartimaeus’ life is improved in that moment, but Jesus wasn’t a way to get something better, sight was a means to be able to follow Jesus. The cross and resurrection of Jesus are not about trying to live a better life, but about being redeemed...

✓ **To Live a Transformed Life – v 42-45**

- Desire greatness
- By being a servant (being like Jesus)

Our ambition and desire for greatness are not the problem, our definition of greatness is. Jesus doesn’t tell His disciples not to desire greatness, but He does redefine what it looks like. We have to unlearn how we think about being great or being first and really start to believe what Jesus says. Romans 12:2 says that the key to being transformed and knowing God’s will is have a renewed mind. A mind that this made new. Jesus didn’t die to help you become a little better version of yourself. He died and rose again to redeem you and transform you into a creation. When we begin to believe Jesus, and it will take unlearning and relearning over and over, we will start to see that our sinful tendencies lose their pull and power in our lives. We sin because we’re convinced that it will bring some sense of satisfaction over and above what Jesus can do. When we grow in love with Jesus and want to truly be like Him, then all of the sudden our peace, joy, and

purpose aren't found in selfish and self-promoting behavior. We can be angry and not sin. We can hear something about someone and take it to Jesus and not others. We can think the best about others and not the worst. We can love and do loving things for others, even our enemies, because all of the sudden it's no longer about making sure we get ahead of them or they are exposed or hurt because greatness is not found there. Greatness is found in being a servant and only the transformed will pursue that life.

We have to be careful if we think we are followers of Jesus by being thankful for what He has done for us, but not believing Him about what greatness really is, and not wanting to be like Him enough to root out and confess our selfishness, do things that draw us closer to Him, and expect transformation. As Thomas Constable says, "Rule and authority in the Kingdom come by faithful and humble service in the present age." Do you love and believe Jesus? Is that proven by your humility and faithfulness to Jesus in serving others?

## Storying Mark 10:32-52

Spend a little time coming up with your own Observation and Interpretation questions. Look back at past message notes for help.

### Questions

- **Observation: What does it say?**

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- **Interpretation: What does it mean?**

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- **Application: How do I respond?**

- How did Jesus respond difficult circumstances or silly people? How do you respond to them?
- How can you be a servant to those around you?
- What are healthy boundaries we still need in our lives in challenging relationships?