

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 30, 2017

The Model Sacrifice
Mark 10:28-34

I. The expectation of sacrifice (10:28-31)

A. The response (10:28)

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."

- "Peter began to say to him"
 - Peter had to chime in after seeing Jesus' challenge to the rich young ruler
 - "Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Mark 10:21)
- "See"
 - "See" or "behold"
 - Peter seems to be defensive in trying to respond to Jesus' previous teaching about the rich and their difficulty in entering the kingdom
- "We have left everything and followed you."
 - Peter wants to be certain that Jesus has noted their sacrifice
 - It appears that Peter and the disciples had in fact repented ("left everything") and believed in Jesus ("followed you")

B. The reduction (10:29)

29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,

- "Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you,'"
 - This signals another important principle for the disciples
- "There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands,"
 - Jesus addresses the reality of sacrifice for His followers
 - Jesus lists the things that people might leave in order to follow Him and preach the gospel
 - Houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children, and lands
 - Home, relatives, and property
 - The Christian life involves sacrifice
 - No one can call himself/herself a Christian unless they have embraced this reality of sacrifice

- How must followers of Christ sacrifice?
- Loves, pursuits, desires, passions, tendencies, lusts, ambitions, goals, wants, needs, families, relationships, possessions, money, time, job, career
- Sacrifice is to be expected when following Christ
- So many Christians have tried to walk the tightrope of pleasing God and something/someone else
 - Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”
- “For my sake and for the gospel”
 - The reason for sacrifice is for Christ’s glory and the advancement of the gospel message
 - These things are not simply abandoned out of convenience
 - “Finally, I can get away from my family!”
 - Scripture affirms the commitment we must have to loving and serving our families
 - However, one’s commitment to Christ and the gospel message must be greater than one’s love and devotion to family
 - All sacrifice in the Christian life must be done for Christ the King
 - Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
 - All sacrifice in the Christian life must lead to an expansion of gospel ministry and proclamation
 - 1 Corinthians 9:23 “I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”

C. The reward (10:30)

30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

- Jesus continues by promising that sacrifice will result in reward
 - There doesn’t have to be a reward or blessing
 - Following Christ could just be brutal sacrifice with no reward
- The reward is one hundredfold
 - “Who will not receive a hundredfold”
 - The reward is substantially greater than whatever one sacrificed

- God is a good God who gives more than mankind deserves
- The reward is now
 - “Now in this time”
 - This clearly shows that these rewards are for this current life on earth at least until Christ returns and establishes His physical Kingdom on earth
- The reward makes up for what was lost
 - “Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands”
 - Sacrificing relationships in order to follow Christ will result in new relationships in the body of Christ as adopted children of God
 - Sacrificing earthly possessions and excesses in order to follow Christ will result in sufficient care found among the community of Christ’s church
 - Food, shelter, clothing, etc.
 - It is interesting to note that relationship of “Father” is left out, why?
 - Perhaps it is best to conclude that our heavenly Father is our authoritative Father that we all need
- The reward includes hardship, suffering, and persecution
 - “With persecutions”
 - Is it possible that persecutions are actually a part of the reward for the believer who has sacrificed for Christ?
 - Romans 8:17 “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”
 - Philippians 1:29 “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,”
 - Acts 5:40-42 “and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”
- The reward is eternal life in the age to come

- “And in the age to come, eternal life”
- This connects our current passage to what Jesus had just discussed with the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17)
- The sacrifice that the rich young ruler was unwilling to give was in fact the answer to his question about eternal life
- God graciously grants blessing in the paradox of salvation
 - Sacrifice and abandonment of one’s life for Christ secures one’s spot in eternity
 - While such sacrifice is costly in this life, it is also rewarding to the extent that man’s greatest good and best life is actualized in living for the sake of Christ and the gospel

D. The realization (10:31)

31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first. ”

- Jesus summarizes how His teaching directly opposes the teaching of the day in 1st Century Judaism
- This was the realization for the disciples
- The appearance of “first” and “last” will not always stay that way
- Perhaps we could say that the first (in the world’s eyes-rich young ruler) will be last (in God’s eyes), and the last (in the world’s eyes-disciples) will be first (in God’s eyes)
- This will be a massive switch in the future and it will catch several off guard
 - Psalm 73:12 “Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.”
 - Psalm 73:18-19 “Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!”
 - The apparently religious in Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”
- Application: How easy it is to adopt the world’s assessment of individuals!

- People rise in prominence based on success, fame, money, looks, pretty much anything visibly impressive
- They're in the TV shows, Movies, Magazine covers and all the news outlets and headlines
- World makes certain we know everything about them from personal family troubles to anytime they go out and pick up subway for dinner!
- We must adopt God's assessment!
 - Who is first in God's eyes?
 - Isaiah 66:2 "... But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."
 - 1 Peter 5:5 "... God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

II. The example of sacrifice (10:32-34)

A. The authority of Jesus (10:32)

32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid.

- "And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem"
 - The journey up to Jerusalem meant they continued making their way to celebrate Passover
 - "Up" to Jerusalem makes sense considering Jerusalem's high elevation
- "And Jesus was walking ahead of them."
 - This appears to be different than their usual way of traveling
 - Especially since Mark notes it and makes mention of Jesus' position in relation to His followers
 - Some say this might be a rabbinic custom
 - Perhaps the usual formation when they traveled involved Jesus traveling with the pilgrim crowd as they journeyed southward to Jerusalem
 - Jesus appears to be resolved in His mission to enter Jerusalem despite what was in store
- "And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid"
 - The "they" is vague in verse 32 but it is probably a reference to the 12

- “Those who followed” is probably a reference to other followers and outside of the 12
- Why are these disciples and followers amazed and afraid?
- Jesus has recently raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11)
 - This caused the religious leaders from Jerusalem to unify in hostility against Jesus
 - This hostility forced Jesus to withdraw from Judea for some time
- Now, Jesus is drawing nearer to Jerusalem where powerful people hate Him and wish to kill Him
- What will take place when Jesus enters Jerusalem?
 - Civil war among the Jews?
 - Messianic war against the Romans?
- Jesus was determined despite the danger that awaited Him in Jerusalem
- It was this leadership and determination that left His disciples and followers both amazed and afraid
- Even the 12 have failed to understand Jesus’ mission up to this point
- Since no one was certain of what would take place in Jerusalem, they were amazed and afraid
 - Mark 9:32 “But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.”

B. The assurance of Jesus (10:33-34)

And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. 34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

- “And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him,”
 - This would be the third time that He predicted His death in Mark’s gospel
- “Saying, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem,’”
 - This final chapter of Jesus’ earthly ministry would take place in Jerusalem
- “And the Son of Man”

- Again Jesus refers to Himself as the “Son of Man” – a distinctly Messianic term from Daniel 7
- “will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes and they will condemn him to death”
 - The condemnation of the chief priests and the scribes was probably not too far fetched since the growing hatred must have been visible to the 12
 - But the thought of the Messiah suffering was still too difficult to grasp
- “and deliver him over to the Gentiles.”
 - In this prediction, Jesus adds some critical details
 - They will deliver Him over to the Gentiles is a loaded phrase
 - This phrase constantly refers to experiencing God’s wrath and punishment
 - Warning of exile (Lev 26)
 - Exile is what the Northern Kingdom experienced by Assyria
 - Exile is what the Southern Kingdom experienced by Babylon
 - Psalm 106:40-41 “Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage; 41 he gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them.”
 - Ezra 9:7 “From the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt. And for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as it is today.”
- “And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him.”
 - Initially, we realize more detail regarding the death of Christ
 - We also notice that this is not just a random humiliating death
 - These details are perfectly in line with the Word of God regarding the suffering of God’s Messiah
 - Psalm 22:6-8 “But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8

“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

- Isaiah 50:6 “I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.”
- Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”
- Jesus did not only know the future, He was saturated in Scripture
- “And after three days he will rise.”
 - Again, the resurrection is predicted as in earlier predictions
 - This was the anchor to vindicate and validate all of who Jesus was and all of what Jesus said
 - But the disciples were slow to understand Jesus’ words
 - Luke 18:34 “But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.”