

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: HOW TO BE A GREAT SERVANT-LEADER LIKE JESUS KNOWING JESUS SERIES

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TEXT: Mark 10:43 “...But whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

INTRO:

- A. REVIEW: The importance of knowing Jesus.
 - 1. Paul wanted to know Jesus—that was his primary goal in life. Philippians 3:8,10.
 - 2. Jesus is our foundation. 1 Corinthians 3:11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. The apostles and prophets build on the foundation of Jesus.
 - 3. By knowing Jesus, you get to know God the Father. John 14:9 “He who has seen Me has seen the Father...”
 - 4. By knowing Jesus, you become like Jesus. 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - 5. By knowing Jesus, you will grow to love Jesus. 1 John 4:19, John 15:8. There is a difference between infatuation and a deep, mature love.
- B. THE FOUR DIFFERENT VIEWS OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS
 - 1. In Matthew, Jesus is presented as the *Messiah*—the King and His Kingdom.
 - 2. In Mark, Jesus is shown as the *Servant of God*—the leader who took on the form of a servant.
 - 3. In Luke, Jesus is seen as the *Son of Man* (humanity)—connected with fallen man, but different since He was sinless.
 - 4. In John, Jesus is revealed as the *Son of God* (deity)—connected with the Father and His family. All the Gospels reveal His deity, but not like John.
- C. THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES IN REVELATION 4:7
 - 1. **Revelation 4:7 The first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.**
 - 2. Matthew reveals Jesus as a King, represented by the lion. In Luke, the Son of Man is represented by the face of a man. In John, the deity of Jesus is represented by the eagle that soars through the heavens.
 - 3. The Gospel of Mark corresponds with the face of an ox: the servant-leader. The ox is known as an animal of service and sacrifice. This points to Jesus taking the form of a servant.
 - 4. Mark’s Gospel emphasizes the Servanthood of God.
 - 5. **N.T. Wright** summarizes his introduction to Mark in *The New Testament in Its World*: “Jesus, Mark insists, is Israel’s **Servant-King**, embodying the very presence of God.” (p. 576)

I. THE GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A. WHO WAS JOHN MARK?

1. Mark is the writer of the Gospel of Mark. His mother was Mary (Acts 12:12) and he was the cousin to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch and was the cause of the parting of ways between Barnabas and Paul (Acts 12:25; 13:5). Later Paul said that Mark was a great help to him (Colossians 4:10-11; 2 Timothy 4:11). Peter led Mark to the Lord and calls Mark “my son” (1 Peter 5:13). According to the early church fathers, Peter dictated this Gospel account to Mark. The book has Peter’s personality all over it. We can see the power of spiritual legacy through spiritual sons and daughters.
2. Mark wrote to the Romans. He uses Latin terminology, and when he describes a Jewish custom, he explains in detail what is going on. Romans were into power, and it also explains why there are more miracles recorded in Mark than any of the other Gospels.
3. It is considered the first of the Synoptic Gospels because Luke and Matthew borrow heavily from Mark with sentences that are repeated verbatim. Scholars have debated the dating of Mark. Many say it was the first Gospel written around 55 AD to the late 60s. He wrote this most likely in Rome.

B. NO GENEALOGY IN MARK

1. This explains why Mark did not mention a genealogy, the miraculous conception, the birth and wise men, or Jesus in the temple at age 12. Why? Servants don’t have a genealogy.
2. Notice the omission of many of Jesus’ divine titles from this Gospel. In Mark, Jesus is not mentioned as King (except in derision). He is called “the Son of David” once. Mark begins abruptly compared to the lengthy introductions in Matthew, Luke, and John.

C. MARK AND THE WORD “IMMEDIATELY”

1. A term occurring often in Mark’s Gospel is the Greek word *eutheos*, which is variously translated “immediately” or “at once.” This word appears over 40 times in Mark’s Gospel. Servants immediately obey their master’s wishes.
2. There was no holding back, reluctance, or delay as Jesus did the Father’s work. This word tells of the prompt nature of His service as well as the urgency He felt concerning His mission. “And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants... Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath...” (Mark 1:19-21).

D. **MARK MENTIONS JESUS’ *HAND* RELATED TO *HIS SERVICE* MORE THAN THE OTHERS (Mark 1:31,41; 5:41; 7:32; 8:22-25; 9:27).** In this, we can see the power, kindness, and tenderness of His hand and touch!

E. GENERAL OUTLINE OF MARK

1. Mark’s Gospel is simply outlined into two segments. **N.T. Wright** summarizes the book of Mark: “**eight chapters to explain who Jesus is and eight to explain that he is going to die**” (and rise from the dead).
2. My outline is threefold:
 1. **THE SERVANT’S MINISTRY IN GALILEE: Ch. 1-9**
 2. **THE SERVANT’S TEACHING ON BEING A SERVANT: Ch. 10**
 3. **THE SERVANT’S MINISTRY IN JERUSALEM: Ch. 11-16**

F. DETAILED OUTLINE

1. THE SERVANT’S COMING: Mark 1:1-10
2. THE SERVANT’S DISCIPLES: Mark 2:1-3:35
3. THE SERVANT’S TEACHINGS: Mark 4:1-4:41
4. THE SERVANT’S MIRACLES: Mark 5:1-8:26
5. THE SERVANT’S REVELATION: Mark 8:27-10:34
6. THE SERVANT’S REJECTION: Mark 11:1-12:44
7. THE SERVANT’S DEATH AND RESURRECTION: Mark 14:1-16:20

II. HOW TO BE A GREAT SERVANT-LEADER

A. UNDERSTAND GREATNESS IN GOD’S KINGDOM

1. **Mark 10:35** James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.” **36** And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” **37** They said to Him, “Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory.”
2. **Mark 10:43** “But whoever wishes to become great among you...”
3. James and John were trying to gain positions of power and authority in Jerusalem. Keep in mind that they were thinking of a geopolitical Kingdom.
4. Jesus did not rebuke them for wanting to be great in His Kingdom. **Jesus teaches what true greatness is in His Kingdom.** Here is another passage on being great.
5. **Matthew 5:19** “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”
6. God has created us to be great in His Kingdom. We are made in the image and likeness of God, but it has to be done in His way and not the world’s way.
7. One thing that is clear in the Bible is that God doesn’t want you to be motivated by selfish ambition.
8. **James 3:14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
9. If you have to promote yourself by your efforts, then you have to maintain the level of achievement with your efforts. This leads to burnout. When God raises or promotes you, He gives the grace to sustain the level of excellence.

B. DON’T ABUSE YOUR AUTHORITY: Mark 10:42-43

1. **Mark 10:41** Hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. **42** Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. **43** *But it is not this way among you...*”
2. **People are not a means to your end, but people are the end.**

C. EMBRACE SERVANTHOOD AS ONE OF YOUR HIGHEST VALUES

1. **Mark 10:43** “But whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; **44** and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

2. John Dawson's word to me when I took his place on the Love LA Board: "Just serve the pastors."
3. Find a place to serve in the church. Three S's to being a good church member: **(1) Stay Close, (2) Support Financially, (3) Serve.**
4. Serve in the area of your passion. E.g., children's ministry. Serving my grandchildren.
5. Serve people even when you don't feel like it. When we were renting the Arcadia Christian Center, my job was to clean the toilets. You never outgrow serving practically.
6. A pastor was starting a new church and he had a picnic at his house. He was upstairs in his bathroom when all of sudden there was a thunderstorm. He looked out the window and the Lord said to him, "See who is serving, and these are the leaders you are to raise up."
7. Serving others is never convenient. The real heart of a servant is doing it when it is not convenient for them.
8. Here is what happens when you are serving others.
9. **Philippians 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men... 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
10. **God will reward you for your serving, in this life and in the life to come.**
11. One day, everyone who comes before God on that Day of Judgment will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. Two things will happen: First, He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master." And every knee will bow, and every mouth confess that Jesus is Lord.
12. Will you confess Him now as your Lord?

CONCLUSION: Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus served you by laying down His life for you. He rose again, and His Spirit will come inside your spirit and transform you within. But you have to invite Him into your life.