

Theme: In a world that worships power, Jesus rules a Kingdom where His disciples are called to descend with Him into costly servanthood - for this is the mark of true greatness.

I. The Way of the World - Crushing Power!

- A. "A man's greatest work is to break his enemies, to drive them before him, to take from them all the things that have been theirs, to hear the weeping of those who cherished them, to take their horses between his knees and to press in his arms the most desirable of their women." - Genghis Khan
- B. What is best in life? To crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and to hear the lamentations of their women. - Conan the Barbarian
- C. And when you kill a man you're a murderer. Kill many, and you're a conqueror. Kill them all... ooh, oh, you're a God! (Megadeth, Captive Honour)
- D. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. - Jesus Christ (Mark 10:43-44)
- E. This is a different type of kingdom - and King!

II. Jesus Predicts His Death

- A. Destination Jerusalem!
And they were on the road, **going up to Jerusalem**, and Jesus was walking ahead of them... Mark 10:32
 - 1. For the first time, Mark says where Jesus is going!
 - 2. The first time in Mark that Jesus goes to Jerusalem
 - a. John lets us know He went several times
 - b. Mark does not tell us this, so it is climactic
 - c. The King is going to His city; how will it respond?

- d. Surely the City will respond to her King!

"And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD. Isaiah 59:20

- 3. The people of Jerusalem have been mixed in their response up to this point

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and **Jerusalem** and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. Mark 3:7-8

- a. Many common people have warmly responded to Jesus during His ministry time.

- b. Perhaps they will receive Him as King!

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." Mark 3:22

- a. The leaders have been hostile to Jesus!

- b. They think He is the King of Darkness!

- 4. Jesus is resolute as He heads to Jerusalem

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and **Jesus was walking ahead of them**. Mark 10:32

- a. Whatever the response will be, Jesus is boldly going

- b. As the Servant of the Lord, His face is set like flint
But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. Isaiah 50:7

- c. Like Jesus, we know the outcome, but Jesus was not dragging His feet! He was resolutely set out to obey the Father, no matter the cost!

B. Jesus predicts His death for the 3rd time

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. ³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

Mark 10:32-34

1. Again - the third time Jesus predicts His rejection, death, and resurrection
2. This is the most detailed prediction (William Lane)

| Topic | Mark 8:31 | Mark 9:31 | Mark 10:33-34 | Passion Narrative |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------------------|
| Delivered to the chief priests & scribes | - | (X) | X | Mark 14:53 |
| Sentenced to death | (X) | - | X | Mark 14:64 |
| Delivered to the Romans | - | - | X | Mark 15:1, 10 |
| Mocked, spit upon, scourged | - | - | X | Mark 14:65; 15:15-20 |
| Executed | X | X | X | Mark 15:20-39,44 |
| Resurrected | X | X | X | Mark 16:1-8 |

- a. Jesus is unveiling all that will happen
- b. He will be betrayed, sentenced to death, delivered to the Romans, mocked, spit upon, scourged, executed - and then resurrected!
3. Far from receiving the King, Jerusalem will conspire with the hated Romans to have the King killed!
4. This King is marching, not to crush His enemies, but to be put to death by them!

III. A Kingdom of Servants

A. A tone-deaf, horrible response - again!

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “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 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Mark 10:35-37

1. No understanding, compassion, or questions!
2. Just raw ambition for power and glory!
3. “You are going to establish your kingdom - make us the two most important people in it!”

B. A lack of understanding of real discipleship!

Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” Mark 10:38-40

1. You don’t know what you are asking!
2. The ones on my right and left are going to be killed! And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. Mark 15:27
 - a. The only other use of right and left in Mark
 - b. To be enthroned with this King is to be crucified with Him!
3. The baptism and cup of Jesus - suffering and death!

- a. They are thinking like Genghis Khan, not Jesus!
 - b. Ultimately, the baptism and cup Jesus will receive is bearing the wrath of God for all the sins of humanity - no one could do this but Him! (Mark 14:36)
 - c. The lesson of v45 - Jesus is a ransom for sinners
4. The disciples baptism & cup - suffering & death
- a. You will get a baptism and a cup of suffering!
 - b. James is martyred, John is exiled and punished
 - c. Not the cup and baptism they were anticipating!
5. The Father will determine who sits in glory!

C. The way of the Kingdom is servanthood!

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:41-45

- 1. The other 10 are furious - for the wrong reason!
- 2. Jesus again teaches them the way of the Kingdom!
- 3. This is the same problem he addressed in Mark 9:31ff - the last time He told them He would die!
- 4. This whole idea of the way of servanthood has to be repeated because it goes against our very nature and the way of the world!

- 5. Jesus describes the way of the world (confirmed by Genghis Khan and Conan the Barbarian - and all human history!)
- 6. The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of servants and slaves!
 - a. v43 - The servant (δίακονος) is greatest - they probably choked on these words!
 - b. v44 - Be a slave (δοῦλος) - this is even worse!
- 7. The way of the Kingdom is diametrically opposed to the way of the world!
- 8. The basis is found in verse 45: this is the way of Jesus! The Eternal Lord of All came as a servant - and His followers must be servants too!
 - a. v45 - 240519 - A King's Ransom
 - b. We are not servants and slaves because it is the way of the world, but because it is the way of Jesus!
 - c. We are not servants and slaves because it works in this world, but because it is the way of Jesus!
 - d. To be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, is to walk the way He walked. He came as a servant and was willing to be mistreated and abused, trusting God the Father to vindicate Him in His own time.
- 9. Disciples must follow Jesus in rejecting the world's grasping for power, choosing to live as servants, willing to be mistreated and suffer, trusting God the Father to vindicate His followers in His own time.

IV. Applying the Word

A. Following Jesus the Servant

1. This is a hard saying of Jesus - which is why the disciples were so slow to learn!
2. It is easier to live like Genghis Khan or Conan the Barbarian than like the Servant!
3. After Hours - Servanthood in a world that worships power
4. Steps to cultivating servanthood
 - a. Admit the way of the world comes naturally to me!
 - b. Realize Satan always tempts me to the way of power and avoiding the way of the cross and servanthood!
 - c. Preach the Gospel to myself every day, to remind me of all the ways Jesus has served me!
 - d. Regularly meditate on eternity to remind myself of where true life and true rewards are found!
 - e. Look for opportunities to serve in my family, close friends, and church.
 - f. Agree to regular ongoing service opportunities to cultivate a practice of serving even when it is inconvenient, or I do not feel like it.

B. The Table of the Servant King

1. Here we are reminded of the Gospel and eternity!
2. Here we are reminded of how Jesus has served and continues to serve us!
3. Philippians 2:3-11 corporate reading

4. Come and receive from your Servant King!

Encountering Jesus the Servant

Mark 10:32-45

March 1, 2026

Communion

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Teaching keywords: Kingdom of God; discipleship; Christology; cross; service and servanthood

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

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 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.”

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “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 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:32-45