

Keep Heart

Keep Your Heart from Selfishness: Mark 10:17-52

A Story to Tell

Read Mark 10:33-44

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 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." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "**Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.**" 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?" 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, 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." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 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, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.**

Living Selfishly

- ? In this text, Jesus was about to be delivered and crucified. Yet, the disciples were more concerned with their own kingdom position rather than the salvation of the world. Hindsight shows us the tragic questions posed by the disciples. How does selfishness blind us to the real needs around us?
- ? Why do we so quickly default to our own needs rather than the needs of others?
- ? How does selfishness prevent us from taking the opportunity to share the gospel?
- ? Why does it often take an "end-of-life" scenario to motivate us into sharing the good news of the gospel, the greatest news that will ever matter? What is it that we fear in normal circumstances that is taken away in life-altering/ending situations in our motivation to share? Is it possible to overcome this barrier without fear of death? Why or why not?
- ? Do you ever fail in witnessing opportunities because you struggle believing it yourself? Do you have a fear of earning the title of "hypocrite"? How can we overcome these roadblocks with great confidence?

The Light of the World

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

1. Selfishness distorts the view of Eternity - Mark 10:17-22

- ? Why do we often trade eternity's wisdom for craving the things that will never satisfy?
- ? Read Psalm 119:17-24. What picture is the psalmist painting and how can that picture keep us from trading the eternal from temporal?

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times. You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments. Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies. Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors. Ps. 119:17-24

2. Selfishness distorts the sound of reality - Mark 10:32-38

- ? What is an area of common sense that used to be common, but is no longer universally viewed that way?
- ? What has led to this shocking confusion of truth once held as "common"?
- ? Worse yet, holding to truths once held as common (such as gender identity) can cause great divides in long-held friendships. What happened?

3. Selfishness distorts the sense of unity - Mark 10:41-44

- ? What are some hot topics that we're dealing with today that has the potential to harm unity unjustly? Are there some topics that "agreeing to disagree" for the sake of unity are just not possible? Why or why not?
- ? Where have you personally contributed to the disfunction that harms unity? How did you come to realize your distortion?
- ? How can we help others who have yet to see their disfunction, without being titled a hypocrite or further causing harm to the unity?

Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live
-Oscar Wilde

The early church didn't say, 'look what world is coming to!' They said, 'Look what has come into the world!'"
-Carl F. Henry

Living SelfLESSly

Mark 10:45-52

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 10:45

1. Selflessness creates a deep well that never runs dry - Mark 10:46-49
2. Selflessness sharpens our view of eternity - Mark 10:46-49
3. Selflessness fine tunes the sound of reality - Mark 10:50-51
4. Selflessness brings unity. Mark 10:52

Thinking of myself less - Mark 10:45

Instead of becoming a burden, worried about being served, become a blessing by serving.

- ? What does Billy Graham mean by the following statement and how has it, both positively and negatively, affected the church? "*We are not cisterns made for hoarding, we are channels made for sharing?*"
- ? How does living generously present the gospel contagiously?
- ? How does helping materially impact the world spiritually? Does this sound potentially dangerous, as if we're tying material support to spiritual support?
- ? Do people hear the gospel loud and clear when we hand out a cup of soup or is more required to make a substantial gospel impact?
- ? How can our small group make a small sacrifice to make a big impact on the Gospel?

*And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**" Acts 20:32-35*