

## A Love that Serves

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Church Office Hours. Christmas Services. HS New Yrs Eve Party.
- B. Slide5 This Wed Night: We have special guest music by *Joseph Pfeifer* (dad/mom attend here) [worship leader from CC Santa Barbara]. Share songs from New Christmas Album.
1. 4<sup>(10min)</sup> Christmas Devo's: Hope/Gail Mays, Peace/Andy Deanne, Comfort/Kelly, Joy/Brian
- C. Slide6a Sanctuary Remodel: Due to our Sanctuary remodel there will be *NO services in our Sanctuary* on Wed, Dec. 28th or Jan4th. [Yes, on Sun Jan.1st]
1. On both Wed nights we encourage you to open up your home and host a fellowship night or Bible study with friends.
    - a) On 12/28 you're invited to play *Capture the Flag* with our HS ministry.
  2. Then on Jan.4th, we'll be meeting at the Cal Oaks Reading Theater to watch the movie "Sing". (Time TBD/announced on facebook & website) Or again, take this time and open your home, have some new people over for dinner and/or fellowship.
- D. Slide6b Prayer:

### II. Slide7 Intro:

- A. We remain on the theme of *serv-ing*. Last week *Service or Serve Us?*  
This week **A Love That Serves.**
1. Dying to Serve (17-19) Coming to Serve (20-28) Compassion that Serves (29-34).
- B. Slide8 Jesus' journey began in Galilee. Travelers on this route would start uphill at Jericho. From there, it was about a 10-mile ascent to Jerusalem.
- C. In vs.28 we have the key to the life of Christ...answering *why He came*. It's what we celebrate this time of year in His *Incarnation, His coming...but why did He come?*
1. He came to serve & to give (His life). Servanthood & Sacrifice.
  2. He came to die, His supreme mission. He came to live, for our example. He came to teach, about His kingdom. He came to heal, both body & soul. He came to show compassion, to the multitudes. He came to testify of truth, that we might walk in it. He came to destroy the work of the devil, to set us free of sin.

He came to set the captives free, that we might be free indeed.  
 He came to lay down His life a ransom for many. (He didn't die a *martyr*, but as a **Savior**).

### III. Slide9 **DYING TO SERVE (17-19)**

- A. Jesus marches boldly on before them, showing us *He's a Lion of a Lamb*.
1. Slide10 Mark 10:32 nlt *Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him.*
    - a) His steadfast determination in the face of impending danger **amazed**/surprised the disciples; indeed those who followed were **afraid**.
- B. This is the 3rd & final prediction of His passion.
1. Here He finally names the destination...**Jerusalem**.
- C. Ok, so I want you to know this information so you'll know *I'm in control* when it *seems like* everything is *out of control*.

### IV. Slide11 **COMING TO SERVE (20-28)**

- A. **One at your right hand and one at your left** - Refers to preeminent positions of authority and honor - the 1st and 2nd in importance after Jesus Himself.
1. **Denied on 2 counts: Their Ignorance** - They don't know what they're asking.  
**Their Inability** - The Father assigns the seating arrangements.
- B. **Mom's name is Salome**. Maybe she remembered Jesus' promise in 19:28 & was simply claiming it for her 2 boys.
1. **Maybe it was the mention of Jerusalem that triggered their inquiry?** As they thought he was going to take His place on the throne of the kingdom...**and they wanted the box seats**.
  2. **What she/they forgot** was what He just said about the cross.
  3. **Slide12a What she/they forgot** was the only way to glory is through suffering (1 Pet.5:10 *may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by*

*Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, & settle you)*

a) *Slide12b* You do not **pray** for a throne; you **pay** for it. Weirsbe

C. (22) Why do you think James/John ask what they do?

1. They had enjoyed the *unique privilege* of glimpsing His glory on the mount of Transfiguration.

2. They wanted to get to Him 1st (*the early bird gets the worm right?*)

D. *Slide12c* If you are a disciple, expect *a cross, a cup, & a baptism*, for the servant is not greater than his Lord.<sup>1</sup>

1. Cup = of sorrow. Baptism = of suffering. [*Their goal should be serving, not ruling*]

2. Disciples: Jesus can we share in your glory? Jesus: Sure...will you share in my suffering?

E. *Slide12d* Here is *flesh* in its finest hour...*we are able!*

1. Do you desire a position? Then **prepare yourself** for it, *rather than* seek it selfishly.

a) James 4:10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, & HE will lift you up.*

F. (23) You will indeed drink - James was going to be the 1st of the 12 to lose his life for Christ, King Herod...had James, the brother of John, put to death w/the sword. Acts 12:1,2

1. John was probably the last to die. Died of natural causes as best we know... *but suffered* many persecutions. [Like trying to be *boiled to death*]<sup>2</sup>

G. (24) Greatly displeased? – Because of James & John's *selfishness*? Or, because the other 10 *didn't think of it 1st*? Or, because they were jealous they *didn't get to Him 1st*?

H. (25-28) Jesus turns the value system of the world totally upside down.

I. The marks of true greatness are **humility & service**.

1. Jesus seems to say there's nothing wrong w/the desire to be **great**, provided:

a) You seek the **right kind** of greatness. You allow God to decide **what greatness is**. You are willing to **pay the full price** that greatness demands.<sup>3</sup>

J. *Slide13a*(27) Jesus brings out for a 3rd time *1st shall be last; slave of all*. [It's a **race to the bottom**]

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, pg.661

<sup>2</sup> Where the apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, in the boiling oil, & thence remitted to his island-exile. Tertullian, ch.36, The Prescription Against Heretics.

<sup>3</sup> A.W.Tozer

1. God's pattern in Scripture is that a person must **first** be a servant *before* God promotes **him or her** to be a **ruler**.
  2. *Slide13b* You can't **give** orders *until* you can **take** orders. *You can't exercise authority until you can be under authority.*
- K. (28) *New motivation for service? To give...not get.*
1. Jesus didn't come to get your **service** *but* to give you **His services**.
  2. Jesus didn't come to gather your **merit** *but* to show you **grace**.
  3. Jesus didn't come to count up your **works** *but* to show you **mercy**.
  4. Jesus didn't come to look for **treasure** *but* to bestow upon you *unsearchable treasures*
  5. Jesus didn't come for those who *think* they are **righteous** *but* to look for **sinners**.
  6. Jesus didn't come to those who *think* they are **healthy** *but* to **heal** the spiritually sick.
  7. Jesus didn't come to those who *think* they are **found** *but* to **seek & save** the lost.
  8. Jesus didn't come for those who **could see** *but* to those who were **spiritually blind**.
- L. *How can your life better conform to Jesus' view of greatness? In the area of serving or giving?*
- M. *Slide14a Ransom* – The essential idea is *release*, redeem, redemption.
1. *Originally*, it was *the payment of a price* to secure the release of a **prisoner of war**. *Then* it was used of **the release of a slave**, *and then* of a **person under sentence of death**.
  2. *It indicated something was paid to secure that release.*
  3. Christ gave Himself as the **ransom price** to free us from the slavery of **sin**.
- N. *Slide14b* 3 words for redemption/ransom:
- O. *Agorazo* (ἀγοράζω) buy **in** the market.
1. 1 Cor. 6:20 **For you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
- P. *Exagorazo* (ἐξαγοράζω) buy **out of** the market.
1. Gal.3:13 **Christ has redeemed** us from the curse of the law, having become a **curse for us** for it is written, **Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.**
- Q. *Lutron* (λυτρόν) to **set free** never to be bought again.

1. Titus 2:14 (Jesus) **who gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem** us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people.**
  2. **It's the price for a slave who is then set free by the one who **bought** him.**
    - a) Jesus gave *His own life* as the price of **freedom** for the slaves of sin.
- R. **Ransom for** (*in place of*) **many** - **His death** would take the place of many deaths (animal sacrifices), for only **His death** could truly **atone** for sin.
1. **First**, it was **1 animal sacrifice per person** (Adam/Eve Gen.3).  
**Then**, **1 animal sacrifice per family** (at Passover Ex.12).  
**Then**, **1 animal sacrifice per nation** (Day of atonement).  
**Finally**, **1 sacrifice per world** (John 1:29 *Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*)

## V. Slide15 **COMPASSION THAT SERVES (29-34)**

- A. **In the final episode** before Jesus' arrival in **Jerusalem**, Jesus is again shown to be the **Messiah** from David's line.
1. Jesus continues to show His **concern** for **the castoffs of society** and **heals** two blind men whom the crowds attempt to silence.
- B. **Meet 2 determined blind men.** *Bartimaeus* was the prominent one (*Mrk10:46*).
- C. Here is the **last miracle** recorded in the gospels before *the week of passion*.
1. It's **Passover** time, **so** the streets would be **packed** the closer they get to **Jer.**
- D. (29) **Jericho** – An Oasis in the desert. *City of Palms. Place of fragrance.*
- E. (30,31) **Son of David** – a Messianic title.
1. It was said of *Messiah* when He comes He'd be...**a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.** Is.42:6,7
- F. **Slide16 (32) So Jesus stood still** – **[I love this]** For a moment in time this blind beggar has *the undivided attention of Deity.* **Bartimaeus the man who stopped God.**
1. Joshua made **the sun stand still**, **but** this blind beggar caused **the Son of Righteousness** to **stand still**.
  2. **In spite of His impending death, Jesus makes time for Bartimaeus.**
    - a) **What does this tell us about His priorities? How do they compare with your own?**

G. Mrk 10:49b *NIV* says - *Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.*

1. This should be *every Christian's cry* to those who are recognizing their darkness & helplessness...*Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.*

H. Listen to his *eagerness* in Marks account (10:50*nl*) Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

1. This is how we all must come to Jesus. Cast off our old filthy garment like Bartimaeus.

I. Slide17,18 (33) What do you want Me to do for you? - They *knew* what they wanted, and they *trusted* him for it. *Lord, that our eyes may be opened.*

1. Do you *know what you want* when you come to Him in prayer?
2. Do you *persist* even if others try to *discourage* you?
3. What promise we have in Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy & find grace to help in time of need.*

J. (34) The 1st thing this blind man saw was the face of Jesus.

1. Slide19 He followed Jesus – We are not surprised from what we've learned of him thus far...*that* he followed Jesus *on the road* (Mrk 10:52) But *what* road?
  - a) Well, it was the road **to Jerusalem**...*to His death*.
  - b) He followed Jesus on the road right to: *Atonement Avenue. Lonely Lane. Calvary Circle. Scourge Street. Broken Boulevard. Passion Place. Death Drive.*
    - (1) To follow Jesus on **His road**...What might be some of **your costs**?  
Some of your **liberties**? Some of your **rights**?