

## Point B

### I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Married Couples Retreat 2013 - Our retreat is sold out? However, we do have a waiting list so you are still welcome to sign up. For the couples that are currently signed up your **balances are due** TODAY at the info booth.
- B. Slide#3 Harvest Crusade - at Angel Stadium is Aug 23-25. Flyer at info booth or church office.
- C. Slide#4 Children at Risk - Harrison House: is a SafeHouse in Thousand Palms & is a Transitional Shelter for youth in crisis. They help young adults ages 8-24 who are **homeless, exploited**, or have **aged out** of the system. (runaways, throwaways, and victims of human trafficking).
  - 1. We have adopted a 2 bedroom apt. Furniture is there, we will furnish. Our group has made it really easy to meet these needs & set up a “wedding registry” at Target. Already 25 things! Or Target Gift Cards. Can bring to next C@R mtg, or drop off @ church.
- D. Slide#5 Pray: We are so privileged.

### II. Intro:

- A. Slide#6 Vance Havner(1901-1986), born in Jugtown NC, was a famous preacher known for quips like, “The church is a hospital for sinners, and not a museum for saints.” & “The preacher is to comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.” He once asked a penetrating question, “*Has Jesus taken over in your heart? Perhaps He resides there, but does he preside there?*”
  - 1. Reside = To live in a place permanently or for an extended period.
  - 2. Preside = To hold *the position of authority*.
- B. In vs.45 we have **the key** to the whole book of Mark.
  - 1. It sums up the 2 main headings of Marks Gospel: Servanthood & Sacrifice.
  - 2. From this point on, Mark will shift from Servanthood to Sacrifice.
- C. Slide#7 Title: *Point B*. [to plan your trip, you punch in Point A (where you are) & Point B (where you are going)]
- D. Outline: Prediction; Ambition; & Determination.

### III. Slide#8 PREDICTION (32-34)

- A. (32) Jesus marches boldly on before them. Showing us, *He’s a Lion of a Lamb*.
  - 1. Slide#9,10 His steadfast determination in the face of impending danger amazed/surprised the disciples; indeed those who followed were afraid.
- B. Luke talks about this during 1 of Jesus’ shortcuts, Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. Lk.9:51-53

1. Slide#11 Is.50:7 **Therefore I have set My face like a flint**, And I know that I will not be ashamed.
    - a) In contrast...Jesus' steadfast determination in the face of impending danger amazed/surprised the disciples; indeed those who followed were afraid.
      - (1) This isn't *at all* what they had thought, planned, nor expected.
  2. Jesus purposed to *fulfill* His mission.
  3. **Stay** yourself on God. **Set** your sail in His direction.
- C. Slide#12 (33,34) This is the 3rd & final prediction of His passion.
1. Here He finally names the destination...**Jerusalem**. *Point B!*

#### IV. Slide#13 **AMBITION (35-45)** Eager Beavers.

- A. What is ironic about their request?
  1. Their timing couldn't have been worse for their **self-seeking**, which came right on the heels of the prediction of His death.
  2. 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 best seats.
  3. Slide#14 Here's where **Selfishness** ran right into the chest of **Selflessness**.
- B. (35) **Matthew**(20:20) lets us know that mom/**Salome** had a part in this also.
- C. (37) Why do you think they go about asking the way they do?
  1. They had enjoyed the *unique privilege* of glimpsing this glory on the mount of Transfiguration.
  2. They wanted to get to Him 1st (*the early bird gets the worm right?*)
- D. Slide#15 (38) "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.
  2. Disciples: Jesus can we share in your glory? Jesus: Sure...will you share in my suffering?
- E. (39,40) 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) But what if they don't notice me?
    - b) James 4:10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**
- F. Slide#16 You will indeed drink... – James was going to be the 1st of the 12 to lose his life for Christ,
 

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had **James**, the brother of John, **put to death with the sword**. Acts 12:1,2

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

1. **Slide#17** John was probably the last. Died of natural causes as best we know...but suffered many persecutions.
- G. (41) **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. (42) **Jesus turns the value system of the world totally upside down.**
- I. (43) The marks of true greatness are **humility & service**.
1. **Jesus seems to say there’s nothing wrong with the desire to be great, provided:**
    - a) **Slide#18** we seek the **right kind** of greatness;
    - b) we allow God to decide **what greatness is**;
    - c) we are willing to **pay the full price** that greatness demands; and
    - d) we are content to **wait for the judgment of God** to settle the matter at last.<sup>2</sup>
- J. (44) Jesus brings out for a **3rd time** *1st shall be last; slave of all. [It’s a race to the bottom!]*
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. **Slide#19** You can’t give orders until you can take orders. *You can’t exercise authority until you can be under authority.*
- K. (45) **New motivation for service?** – **To give...not get.**
1. **Jesus didn’t come to get your service but to give you His services.**  
**Jesus didn’t come to gather your merit but to show you grace.**  
**Jesus didn’t come to count up your works but to show you mercy.**  
**Jesus didn’t come to look for treasure but to bestow upon you unsearchable treasures**  
**Jesus didn’t come for those who think they are righteous but to look for sinners.**  
**Jesus didn’t come to those who think they are healthy but to heal the spiritually sick**  
**Jesus didn’t come to those who think they are found but to seek & save the lost.**  
**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 **servicing** or **giving**?
- M. **Slide#20 Ransom** – The essential idea is *release*.
1. **It indicated something was paid to secure that release.**
  2. In the 1st century the most common use of the term was for **redemption money** to be paid to **free a slave**.
  3. **Christ gave Himself as the ransom price** to free us from the slavery of **sin**.
- N. **Ransom for many** – **for** often meant, *instead of or, in place of*.

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<sup>2</sup> A.W.Tozer

1. Slide#21 So here it supports the doctrine of *Christ's substitutionary atonement*. (i.e. He died in the sinner's place as a ransom for him).
- O. John did grasp this principle later...*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* 1 Jn.3:16
- P. So if you had **one request** of Jesus & know that it would be granted, what would it be?
  1. Solomon picked, an *understanding/hearing heart* to judge Gods people when he was asked, "*What shall I give you?*" by the Lord, in a dream.
  2. He didn't ask for: long life, riches, nor the life of his enemies.
    - a) Have we even really started to grasp these **servant** principles?

## V. Slide#22 DETERMINATION (46-52)

- A. Slide#23 Remember in the *1992 Summer Olympics* watching the 400 meter semifinal in which British runner **Derek Redmond** tore a hamstring & fell to the track. He struggled to his feet and began to hobble, determined to complete the race. His father ran from the stands to help him off the track, but the athlete refused to quit. He leaned on his father, and the two limped to the finish line together, to deafening applause.
  1. Slide#24 Meet a man just as determined. **Blind Bart**.
- B. 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 Jerusalem.
  2. Also, there were actually **2 blind men** that were healed(says Mt.), but obviously **Bartimaeus** was the prominent one.
- C. (46) **Jericho** – An Oasis in the desert. City of Palms. *Place of fragrance*.
- D. Explain 2 Jericho's:
  1. A Jewish city about 15 miles from Jerusalem. This is the one He **went out of**.
  2. There was also a **modern Jericho** He was **approaching**, built by Herod the Great in Graeco-Roman style.
- E. (47,48) **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. Slide#25a (49) **So Jesus stood still** – [I love this] For a moment in time this blind beggar has *the undivided attention of Deity*.
  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. Slide#25b (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. (50) Listen to his eagerness? – he threw off his garment, he sprang up, he hurried to Jesus.
1. This is how we all must come to Jesus. Cast off our old filthy garment like Bartimaeus.
  2. Like Joshua the high priest when the angel spoke to those around him...“Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”
  3. If you want to come to Jesus & be saved, you must do the same.
- I. (52) The 1st thing he saw was the face of Jesus.
1. He followed Jesus – We are not surprised from what we’ve learned of Bartimaeus thus far...that he followed Jesus on the road. But What road?
    - a) Slide#26 Well, it was the road to Jerusalem...to His death.
    - b) What road? He followed Jesus right to: *Atonement Avenue; Lonely Lane; Calvary Circle; Death Drive; Scourge Street; Broken Boulevard; Passion Place.*
      - (1) To follow Jesus on *His road*...What might be some of the costs?
        - (a) Some of your liberties? Some of your rights?
- J. Slide#27 Poem I wrote many years ago. Bartimaeus & his blind buddy begged by a bunch of bystanders on their beat. The Begotten of God brushed by, so Bart bellowed boisterously. The bystanders barked *Be quiet*, but Bart burst out again more blatantly. The Beloved Bread of Life from Bethlehem braked and beckoned for Bart and his bud to be bro's. And before Bart could blink He said, "Bart & blind buddy, be better bra's. I bestow my bountiful blessings & a benediction on you both." So they beamed behind Him bugling their belief as they bounced down the busy boulevard.
- K. Slide#28 When Helen Keller was asked if it was terrible to be blind she responded, “Better to be blind & see w/your heart, than to have 2 good eyes & see nothing!”
1. In this story Mark seems to delight in the irony of a blind man who perceives what the sighted cannot see.
- L. Vance Havner asked, “Has Jesus taken over in your heart? Perhaps He resides there, but does he preside there?”
- M. Slide#29blank
- N. Communion:
1. Bread - Forgive us for our fears of heading to Point B.  
 Forgive us when we don't understand.  
 Forgive us when we say, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”  
 Forgive us when we think, “we are able” in our own power.  
 Forgive us for seeking after our own definition of greatness.  
 Forgive us for our motivation often times is after getting & not giving.

2. **Cup** - Thank you for having the courage of a lion to head straight for Jerusalem. Thank you for the **cross** You bore, the **cup** You drank, & the **baptism** You were baptized with.  
Thank you for coming to **serve** & to **give**.  
Thank you for Your **Ransom** You paid. Thank you for being our **substitute**.  
Thank you for **stopping** & **loving** the blind beggar, You're a great example to us.  
Thanks for asking each of us, "what do you want **Me** to do for **you**."