

“Carpe Diem – Seize the Day!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. They say **James Corbett** changed prizefighting from a **brawl** to an **art form**.
 - 1.1.1. On May 21, 1891, Corbett fought **Peter "Black Prince" Jackson**, because the reigning **John Sullivan** wouldn't fight Jackson because he was black. **Corbett and Jackson fought to a draw after 61 rounds**.
 - 1.1.2. **“Fight one more round**. When your arms are so tired that you can hardly lift your hands to come on guard, **fight one more round**. When your nose is bleeding and your eyes are black and you are so tired that you wish your opponent would crack you one on the jaw and put you to sleep, **fight one more round** - remembering that the man who always fights **one more round** is **never whipped**.”
 - 1.1.2.1. Let's meet 2 men who were **never whipped!**
- 1.2. **Context:** the disciples **sacrifice** (what they gave up – vs.28)
 - 1.2.1. When it comes to **sacrifice** Peter said, **“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”** (2:21)
 - 1.2.2. Now let's read about **Jesus sacrifice**.

2. JESUS, FLINT FACED! (31-34)

- 2.1. **PROPHECY!** (31-33)
- 2.2. From here on everything is **shadowed** or **colored** by the **coming cross!**
 - 2.2.1. 6 months have passed since they stood at Caesarea Philippi, where he told them the 1st time.
- 2.3. Jesus is walking towards Jerusalem with a sense of **determination** because his **life mission** is about to be fulfilled.
 - 2.3.1. Is.50:7 **“Therefore I have set My face like a flint,”**
 - 2.3.2. And Luke already spoke of this (9:51) **“He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face.”**
 - 2.3.3. He was set to get to Jerusalem, where he was going to be **arrested; beaten & whipped** to within *an inch of his life*; & **nailed to a wooden cross** (*like an insect on a display board*).
 - 2.3.4. It is not a **life mission** that many would want!
- 2.4. **Q:** How can the Kingdom of God be advanced by something as **brutal & cruel** as the cross?
 - 2.4.1. This is completely contrary to **history, human experience** and **all sensible logic**.

- 2.4.2. Almost every great revolution or movement, **ended** with the death of its leader.
- 2.4.3. The **worldview of death** is that it is an **end in itself**.
- 2.4.4. **Persecution** and **severe opposition** normally brings forward progress to a **halt**.
- 2.4.5. Normally anything good resulting from a **leader's execution** is **impossible**.
- 2.5. **He speaks of the prophetic writings** which foretold the process:
 - 2.5.1. He will be **delivered to the Gentiles**.
 - 2.5.1.1. His delivery to the Gentiles in order to be put to death, was **Israel's ultimate sin**. It was a **base betrayal**.
 - 2.5.1.2. That sin, ended her (Israel) earthly career.
 - 2.5.2. He will be **mocked, insulted, & spit upon**.
 - 2.5.2.1. It was the Roman soldiery & the Roman power that did these things. That doesn't minimize the sin of Israel's betrayal:
 - 2.5.2.1.1. It is a more dark & dastardly thing to hire a man to murder a man, than to murder him yourself.¹
 - 2.5.3. They will **scourge Him & kill Him**.
 - 2.5.3.1. Roman Jurisprudence of the day lets us know, they knew the difference between **right & wrong** between **justice & injustice**.
 - 2.5.3.2. They violated every principle of law, & every element of justice.
 - 2.5.3.3. **Israel** sinned in **handing Him over; & humanity**, *outside the circle of revelation*, violated **justice**.
 - 2.5.3.4. There is nothing quite so appalling & so terrible as the murder of the **innocent**, the murder of **Jesus**.
 - 2.5.4. **The 3rd day He will rise again**.
 - 2.5.4.1. But the final word is... **and the 3rd day He will rise again**. 😊
 - 2.5.4.2. There is not a single instance when Jesus foretold His **Cross**, but that at the same time He foretold His **Resurrection!**
 - 2.5.4.3. Here we have: **The seal** of a finished work; **the sign** of a glorious triumph; **the pledge** of a coming resurrection; & **the certainty** of a future judgment. (Acts 17:31)
 - 2.5.5. He was ready & willing to walk the pathway of a divine ordination, with **head erect**, & w/**dignity**; not as a **Victim** but as a **Victor!**
- 2.6. **PERPLEXITY!** (34)
- 2.7. My guess is that they could understand most of it, like a person getting **beat up & even dying**,...but this **resurrection thing???**
 - 2.7.1. But to **not** understand the **resurrection**, is to **not even start** to grasp the significance of His **suffering & death**.

¹ G. Campbell Morgan; The Gospel According to Luke; pg.210

3. **BARTIMAEUS, RISK TAKER! (35-43)**

- 3.1. **THE SINNER SEEKS THE SAVIOR!** (35-39)
- 3.2. **THE CRY!** (35-38)
- 3.3. Explain double Jericho. About 15 miles from Jerusalem.
- 3.4. Let's crawl into this man's life for a minute:
- 3.5. Unable to **see**, unable to **work**, no **money**, no **dignity**, the **crowd**, the **noise**.
- 3.5.1. It's my guess this probably **wasn't** his **1st day on the job** of begging.
- 3.5.2. He had probably grown up **relying on the generosity of others** to survive.
- 3.5.3. He would have been someone who felt like his **life was directionless**.
- 3.5.4. **But Bartimaeus had 1 thing going for him:** [his name in Mt. & Mrk]
- 3.5.5. Despite his blindness, Bartimaeus **saw** what others had not!
- 3.5.5.1. **Key?** - The crowd referred to Jesus as "**Jesus of Nazareth**"
Bartimaeus refers to his true identity by saying "**Son of David**".
- 3.5.5.2. And what a sincere, personal pointed, precious, well-aimed prayer! (38) (pointing to Him as Messiah)
- 3.6. **THE CRITICISM!** (39)
- 3.7. **Carpe Diem** (Latin) – "*seize the day*", or more accurately "*pluck the day*".
- 3.7.1. *Dead Poet Society* – Robin Williams (Mr. Keating) plays an English teacher, in an all boys school. His **first lesson** he takes them out of the classroom to focus on the idea of **carpe diem** by looking at the pictures of former Welton students in a trophy case.
- 3.7.2. This blind man learned how to live... **Carpe Diem!**
- 3.8. This blind man was **not** to be stopped!
- 3.8.1. **Not by fear**– What if he **doesn't answer?** What if he **doesn't heal me?**
What if he **doesn't even care?**
- 3.8.2. **Not by lack of status** – I'm just a poor beggar.
- 3.8.3. **Not by others** – "be quiet" blind beggar man!
- 3.8.4. **No, this guy was a risk taker!**
- 3.8.4.1. He couldn't let this opportunity pass!
- 3.8.4.2. Hindrances just deepened his determination! **What?**
- 3.9. **Yep, Hindrances Deepened his Determination:** 😊
- 3.9.1. **Q:** What do hindrances do for you?
- 3.9.2. **Earnestness** is often tested by Satan's hindrances.
- 3.9.3. **He'll try:** obstructions, barriers, obstacles, encumbrances, difficulties, burdens, & deterrents.
- 3.9.4. **Q:** What will you do when they try to silence you?
- 3.9.4.1. He refused to be quiet! He charged ahead!

- 3.9.5. You know when animals & insects “group up”, they’re called by different names. [See how you do?] [insects/swarms; ants/colonies; whales/pods; fish/schools; cattle/herds; birds/flocks; lions/prides; crows/murders; an ambush of tigers; buzzards/a committee; flamingos/flamboyant’s; owls/parliaments]
- 3.9.5.1. Erwin McManus in his book “*The Barbarian Way*” lists one more & that is the **Rhinos. It is a Crash!**
- 3.9.5.2. They can move **30 mph**...but, can only see **30’ ahead**. 😊
- 3.9.5.3. Hence the name. But w/that horn pointing the way...who cares!
- 3.9.5.4. That was our man Blind Bart. Imagine if **the Church** was that way? Do you think the world sees us as a **Crash**, or a **Murder**?
- 3.10. So, what was this man’s key?
- 3.11. Set your sail in **His** direction!
- 3.11.1. Ps.78:7 – **Set your hope in God!**
- 3.11.2. Ps.78:8 - **Set your heart in God!**
- 3.12. **THE SAVIOR RECEIVES THE SINNER!** (40-43)
- 3.13. **THE CONVERSATION!** (40-41)
- 3.14. Jesus with face determined toward Jerusalem stops for a blind beggar.
- 3.14.1. **That’s my Jesus!** – **Jesus stood still!**
- 3.14.1.1. His cry stopped Him in his tracks!
- 3.14.1.2. The **devil** couldn’t stop him from getting to Jerusalem; his **disciples** couldn’t stop Him; it took **a blind beggar** to do that!
- 3.14.2. God is still ruling the world, & yet He still stops when he hears man’s cry!
- 3.14.3. He “stopped, looked, listened, healed, & encouraged”.
- 3.14.4. He asks for the man crying to be brought to him, which sounds just like vs.16 where he said, “let the little children come unto Me, & do not forbid them.”
- 3.15. **Commanded him to be brought to Him** – He solicits those standing there to help bring him. Maybe to awaken **their humanity & compassion** for this man.
- 3.16. **THE RESTORATION!** (42)
- 3.17. How simple for the Great Physician.
- 3.18. **THE CELEBRATION!** (43)
- 3.19. Thus the **compassion & passion** of **the cross** are seen **in action!**
- 3.20. **It was a faith that refused to give up!**
- 3.20.1. He showed great faith by **responding** to what he heard.
- 3.20.2. He showed great faith by **basing** his request in mercy.
- 3.20.3. He showed great faith by **persisting** I his request for help.

- 3.20.4. He showed great faith by **standing** to his feet when Jesus **summoned him**. (also threw aside his garment Mk.10:50)
- 3.20.5. He showed great faith by **asking** clearly making his request known.
- 3.20.6. He showed great faith by **following** Jesus immediately.
- 3.20.7. He showed great faith by **glorifying** God quickly.
- 3.21. So, **“Fight one more round**. When your arms are so tired that you can hardly lift your hands to come on guard, **fight one more round**. When your nose is bleeding and your eyes are black and you are so tired that you wish your opponent would crack you one on the jaw and put you to sleep, **fight one more round** - remembering that the man who always fights **one more round** is **never whipped**.”
- 3.22. **End:**
- 3.23. **Jesus is still passing by** – Who is He to you? *Jesus of Naz;* or *Jesus, Son of David?*
- 3.23.1. Historical figure, or God’s So, the Messiah?
- 3.24. **Jesus is still able to bless** – Are you still spiritually blind?
- 3.24.1. Movie **Amazing Grace**(*a must see*): towards the end of the movie the former slave trader John Newton(now phys blind) says, **“now I can truly say, I once was blind but now I see!”**
- 3.25. **Jesus will soon have passed by** – Today if you will hear His voice harden not your heart!