

“Serve First, Speak Second”

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Scripture

Mark 10:42-45

“Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.

But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Last Week

What is Evangelism all about?

What are we required to do?

How will we know if we're successful?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in evangelism?

This Week

We speak about serving and speaking

This passage of Scripture is interesting because James and John asked their mother to speak to Jesus

She asked Jesus that “her boys” would be able to sit on His left and right in His glory (**Mark 10:35-37**)

Jesus explains that they are a little bold with this request but tells them that they will indeed suffer as He would, but He doesn't scold them

He says that it is not His decision to grant their place in Glory because these positions are for those “whom it has been prepared” (Mark 10:40).

The Father has determined kingdom placement -> and probably before the foundation of the world!

Jesus goes on to explain about how leadership in the world operates

The World's Pattern for Success

Mark 10:42-43

“Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you”

“Lord it over them” means to dominate by force – *katakuriouó* in the Greek

“Exercise authority over them” means to oppress someone to intensely strong-arm someone to capitulate

This is the way of the world leadership

You have to succeed by stepping over or dominating the little people to get to the top

The main point of this passage by Jesus is:

There is no place in the Church for a dominating, autocratic or manipulative leadership style

The true Church will be different than the world

Success will be defined differently

Humble leadership is the way of the true Church

Galatians 5:13-14

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

Your neighbor is to be served through love

Who is your neighbor?

Jesus answered that question with the Good Samaritan parable

Becoming a Servant

Mark 10:43-44

“But it is not this way among you, but **whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant**; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.”

Jesus said the Gentiles lead by domination, threat and force, but “it is not that way among you”.

Notice that Jesus doesn't say “it will not be that way” -> He says “It is not the way” the Kingdom works

This is a deeply committed, personal service from those who have high places in God's eyes

1 Peter 4:10 (Peter wrote about it)

“Each of you should **use whatever gift you have received to serve others**, as faithful stewards of God's grace.”

Romans 12:10-11 (Paul wrote about it)

“**Be devoted to one another in brotherly love**; give preference to one another in honor; **not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.**”

Jesus said that also:

Matthew 25:35-40 (in Jesus's prophecy of the judgment)

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.**”

All of these great service examples, providing food, drink, clothing, and time spent visiting people

Jesus said, "you did for Me"

Paul says the same for our following of Jesus's example:

Philippians 2:4

"Not just looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

You never know you have a servant's heart until someone treats you like one!

Becoming a Speaker

Maybe you are more of a server type, but not much of a speaker -> We are called to Speak

Acts 1:8

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Witnesses talk -> Pretty clear that the expectation and promise was that we would speak about Jesus

1 Peter 3:15

"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

We hit this last week, too -> we need to speak about Jesus and the hope we have in Him

Speaking about Jesus should bring us joy:

1 John 1:1-4

"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life-- and the life was manifested, and **we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also**, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, **so that our joy may be made complete.**"

We should testify of Jesus's effect on our lives

We should proclaim the good news of the Messiah

We should derive joy from that experience

So, we know we are to serve others in Jesus's name, and we know we are to speak about Jesus

The Priority of Service

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Jesus gives Himself as an example of how the disciples should serve

Even the Master came to be a Servant

God called Jesus His servant to come

Because of His service, Jesus would be high and lifted up

Isaiah 52:13

“Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.”

Paul wrote about Jesus’s servant example:

Philippians 2:5-11

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

That name given to Jesus is “Lord” -> a humble Servant exalted by God the Father to the top of hierarchy

If God saw Himself as a Servant to the world, how can we not see ourselves as servants of our King?

We spoke last week about evangelism, how the Holy Spirit is critically involved in it

The thought being that we should not have any reservations about speaking about our Lord

We needed to redefine success -> success is opening your mouth and speaking about Jesus

How did Jesus evangelize?

Is there a pattern we can find in the Gospels?

Yes!

Jesus’s Pattern for Evangelism

Jesus sent out the disciples for the first time as Matthew records:

Matthew 10:1

“Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”

It was one of the few times Jesus sent the Twelve out on their own -> **Luke 9** and **Mark 6**, as well

Jesus instructed them saying:

Matthew 10:5-10

“Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” And as you go, preach, saying, ‘**The kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**’ “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. **Freely you received, freely give.**” “Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.”

Luke 10 recounts that another 70 were sent out to minister in similar fashion

Jesus gave the Twelve great power in this targeted mission

They could “heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons”

That is a lot of authority over the demonic influence and sickness that is a part of the world

What was the purpose of their mission?

They were to **speak to the arrival of the Messiah** in saying that the “kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Their ministry was also targeted to a specific group of people

Jesus told them not to go into Gentile or Samaritan villages but to “go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” as the primary recipient of this good news.

His people, the Jews, were looking for the Messiah to come

These disciples were to announce that He was here!

Jesus sent out His disciples to continue to share that message: “The Messiah is Here!”

He goes on to tell them that they aren’t to take money for their ministry

He said, “freely you received, freely give”

Ministry comes for free -> Jesus wanted His disciples to trust Him for their needs

He wanted the message to come without the hindrance of cost

Isaiah wrote about that, too. (Isaiah 55:1-3).

“Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.”

What was Jesus saying?

Serve people without expecting them to pay you for it

But look at the pattern Jesus established

The disciples were to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons

Then they were supposed to talk about where they received the power to do it -> The Messiah is here!

Serve first, speak second

This was not new to Jesus -> He did it Himself:

Jesus established a pattern in His ministry that is evident from looking at the Gospels: **He served first, and then spoke His message.**

He met the needs of the people first, and then He had a forum for communicating the reason why He served

For example:

In **Luke 7:1-10**, we read of Jesus healing the Centurion’s servant

This generated a sizeable crowd following Him (**Luke 7:11**)

In **Luke 7:13**, Jesus then interacts with a woman in Nain around a funeral procession for her son. Jesus felt compassion for her -> He tells her not to weep, and proceeds to raise her son from the dead

What did Jesus do? -> **Serve!**

These instances of service to others opened the door for Him to speak about the Kingdom

We see that in **Luke 7:40-50**; and in **Luke 8:1-19**

Speak!

In **Luke 8:26-56**, we see Jesus healing people, rescuing a man from demon possession, and raising a girl from the dead which is followed by the opportunity for Jesus to speak further

We see the account of Jesus feeding the five thousand in **John 6:1-14**

This allowed Him to speak to the people following Him in **John 6:26-40**

He then spoke specifically to the Jews in **John 6:41-58**

Matthew 4:24-25

“The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.”

The crowd then heard what we call, “The Sermon on the Mount” -> **Matthew 5-7**

So, what should we do?

Too often, we use the reverse strategy -> we speak first and if we don't get the right answers, we walk away

That was not Jesus's pattern

We need to change our strategy

Serve First, which then gives us the opportunity to speak about Jesus

Matthew 25:14-23 (Parable of the Talents)

“For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. But he who received the one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful slave.** You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Also, the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful slave.** You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; **enter into the joy of your master.**'”

How many of you want to hear that “Well done” from the Lord?

Prayer

Benediction