



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

**Sunday – July 25, 2021**

## **To Know Christ...**

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus fulfills what some may esteem as being well beneath Him: Jesus the servant. We can easily see Jesus as the King in Matthew’s gospel, but servants are often overlooked until there is a need. Jesus made two statements about servants that reveal His heart’s motivation. **“If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”** [9:35] **“... 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.”** [10:43-45] What do we learn about Jesus? What can we apply for ourselves? Take a couple minutes here to ponder these two questions, your soul will thank you.

Jesus was servant of all and slave of all. It does not take long in the gospel of Mark to realize Jesus’ attention to those who were being overlooked among God’s people. Jesus is the servant of the seemingly insignificant and those cast aside by the majority. A few examples ... Simon’s mother-in-law had a fever, and Jesus served. [1:30-31] (it’s just a fever, right?) Jesus was moved with compassion toward the leper, and healed him [1:40-41] (he’s just alone, right?) A paralytic man who took faith in Jesus was served. [2:5] (he already had friends, right?) Time & time again Jesus seeks to impact the “invisible” people among them. Why make such efforts for these overlooked, outcast, and even despised souls? **“He shall be last of all and servant of all.”** [9:35] **“...to give His life a ransom for many.”** [10:45] Jesus’ desire to give His life as a ransom for many translated into ... He will be last of all & servant/slave of all, not a few, not most, but ALL. He is looking after the spiritual needs of others. We easily see their physical gains, but often neglect viewing the spiritual opportunities and gains given.

Even when the crowds told those in need to hush, Jesus heard and came to their aid. There was a blind beggar named Bartimaeus sitting by the road. [10:46-52] He is overlooked to the point of only being known as the “Son of Timaeus.” (“Bar-“ simply means “son of”) Would you

feel insignificant if no one knew your name? It's pretty sad to think about ... until he hears of Jesus. Bartimaeus cries out for Jesus. The "crowd" of disciples sternly tells Timaeus' son to be quiet (ouch! the crowd's evaluation was contradictory to Jesus' thinking; this crowd of disciples was clueless!), but Jesus STOPPED! By Jesus' command, Bartimaeus was made well by faith. And **"immediately he regained his sight and began following Jesus."** Following Jesus was Bartimaeus' best spiritual move; see Jesus the spiritual servant.

As Jesus had entered Jerusalem to the crowd's fanfare, they were shouting with joy, spreading their coats and leafy branches for Jesus to ride into town upon them. [11:7-10] A few days later at this great climax of popularity, Jesus points out the overlooked among the snobby religious Jews in the temple. Jesus points out to His disciples a widow giving her two small copper coins, saying **"This poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;"** because she gave her all. [12:41-44] Jesus paid close attention once again to this widow who would otherwise have been invisible, even among His own disciples. Jesus wanted them to see the value of her heart!

Is anyone insignificant to Jesus? Jesus knows us all by name. Did Jesus only die for the "slightly stained"? Certainly Not! Is any soul unworthy of faithful obedience to Jesus? No! Did Jesus certainly view His mission as giving His life as the ransom for our souls? Yes! And He chose to be last of all and servant of all. Jesus even aimed at the "invisible" souls during His time on earth. Do We? Are we aiming to be like Jesus or the snobby self-righteous Jews? True Servants Sacrifice; Jesus gave it all. He is the first and greatest: Jesus, the servant of all, a ransom for many. Servants, seek to also serve the invisible souls with spiritual motives like Jesus did.

- Carey Terry