

For Even the Son of Man

Mark 10:32-45

Key Verse: 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Part 1. Progressive revelation

[Context]

Jesus repeatedly announced his impending death and resurrection to his disciples with deliberate intention. He patiently did so, with the goal of helping them have the same mindset as his. It takes time, intention, and efforts for Christian mentors to help young believers have Christ-like mindset.

[Questions]

What do I learn from Jesus who repeatedly taught his disciples about his death and resurrection? What ways have my thoughts, attitudes, or values changed since I started following Jesus? How did these changes take place (e.g., events and key people)?

Part 2. "Do for us whatever we ask of you."

[Context]

James and John wanted the highest positions in Jesus' kingdom. Aspiration to be great is not wrong. But their request was misguided and self-centered. They had no understanding of the challenges Jesus would soon face.

[Questions]

In what ways have I, like James and John, prioritized my own goals and ambitions over the needs of others or the will of God? How can I adjust my priorities to better align with Jesus' teachings?

Part 3. The cup

[Context]

Jesus said to James and John, "The cup that I drink you will drink." This means they should face challenges or difficulties for his sake mirroring his experiences. (Ephesians 2:20 says, God prepared good works for us in advance that we should walk in them.)

[Questions]

How did I respond when faced with an opportunity to serve, but it requires sacrifice or discomfort? In what ways have I been called by God to "drink from the same cup" as Jesus, facing challenges or difficulties that mirror His experiences? How has this experience shaped my faith and relationship with Him?

Part 4. Even the Son of Man

[Context]

Jesus walked ahead of them (v.32). Even though he had equal status with God, he came to the world to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. He set an example to his followers by showing his humility, service, and obedience.

[Questions]

What does it mean to me that Jesus, who is equal with God, chooses to serve and give His life as a ransom for many? Are there any areas where I struggle to put others before myself, just as Jesus did? What steps can I take to grow in this area and become a servant leader like Jesus?