

“The Road to Palm Sunday” (3-24-24)

Today: 3 encounters on the road to Jerusalem

Our Text: Mark 10 - The Road to Palm Sunday

1) The Rich Young Man

Mark 10:17-18 (ESV)

(17) And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (18) And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Note: The young man is saying to Jesus - you seem to have something I lack - how can I get that from you. Jesus says you have a deficiency and so does everyone apart from God.

Mark 10:19-20 (ESV)

(19) You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” (20) And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”

Note: He must be thinking - So far I've got this! (It's been noted Jesus lists the commands related to dealing rightly with each other, but left out the ones that are directly connected to our relationship with God.

Mark 10:21-22 (ESV)

(21) And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (22) Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Note: Can you hear Jesus when in love he offers a better way? Do we have responsive hearts, or do we turn back to what we have been relying on?

Mark 10:23-27 (ESV)

(23) And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” (24) And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! (25) It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (26) And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” (27) Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

Note: The deceitfulness of riches - whether we have it, or are just striving for it, it's allusive & won't satisfy.

Mark 10:28-31 (ESV)

(28) Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” (29) Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, (30) who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (31) But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Note: Jesus offers a rich & full life, will we exchange our riches (and the pursuit of them), for his treasure?

Application: Jesus offers True Riches

2) James and John

Mark 10:32-34 (ESV)

(32) And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, (33) saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. (34) And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

Note: Amazement & fear as they are heading to Jerusalem, so Jesus lays it out plainly - he's going to die

Mark 10:35-37 (ESV)

(35) And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." (36) And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" (37) And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

Note: Worried about their own position & glory - what's in it for me?

Mark 10:38-40 (ESV)

(38) Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" (39) And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, (40) but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

Note: Jesus says you don't really understand what you are asking for. My glory is different than you think

Mark 10:41 (ESV)

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.

Note: The other 10 are just mad that James & John asked first!

Mark 10:42-45 (ESV)

(42) And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (43) But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, (44) and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. (45) For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Note: The King of Glory came to serve - we need to understand and live this way too.

Application: Jesus offers True Glory

3) Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-48 (ESV)

(46) And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. (47) And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (48) And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Note: The one who sees Jesus most clearly is the blind man! Notice he's the first one to cry out for salvation from Son of David on the road. The crowds will join this cry in Mark 11 at the triumphal entry.

Mark 10:49-52 (ESV)

(49) And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." (50) And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. (51) And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." (52) And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Note: Jesus heals him, and tells him to go his way - and the now-seeing man follows Jesus

Application: Jesus offers True Sight

When we see Jesus for who he really is, we'll be compelled to leave our beggarly lives behind and follow him!

Conclusion: Palm Sunday is about seeing the King coming to us, and crying out for salvation!

Mark 11:8-10 (ESV)

(8) And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. (9) And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (10) Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Note: The people put 2 things on the road - leafy branches & clothes. The same 2 things used to cover Adam and Eve's shame and nakedness when they fell into sin.

Application: Jesus will trample all of the things we rely on if we set them at his feet.