

A Unique Life Of Service

Promise: Christ serves us with the ransom price of his precious blood

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Jer. 31:31-34; Ps 119:9-16; Heb. 5:1-10; [Mark 10:32-45](#)

(Fifth Sunday in Lent, 3/21/21)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. – v. 45

Lead In – I thought of a line in the movie “A View from the Top” in which comedian Mike Meyer is reproving a flight attendant, “You put the wrong emPHASis on the wrong sylLable.” In Jesus’ line in Mark’s Gospel, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many,” I am concerned that we choose the right word to emphasize, especially in choosing between “serve” and “ransom”. It is important that “ransom” gets the emphasized accent, so that we properly understand in what way Jesus serves us. I hope to explain...

I. The Context of the Road to Jerusalem

- A. The fear associated with going up to Jerusalem...
- B. The prediction for the third time...
- C. Why this may not have registered with them...

II. The Amazing Reaction of the Disciples

- A. Analogous reactions to what Jesus had to share...
- B. Not enough attention to sin of envy! Egalitarianism?
- C. Exaggerated assessment of our own abilities...

III. So, Are Disciples Expected to Learn to be Servants?

- A. For sure! But if left with that, we would be cooked!
- B. Christ’s service is unique! It is a ransom...
- C. He doesn’t need our service. Our neighbor does...

Parting Shot – The name for our Sunday gathering is “The Divine Service. And it is a fitting description and label. Whether we like it or not, God does not need our service. But we desperately need His! There is nothing lacking in Him that we can tend to or provide. But we desperately need Him for every breath we take. And as rebellious sinners, we need the forgiveness He continues to afford to repentant believers. The price for this? His precious blood shed by His death on the Cross. Our ransom! What is left for us?

Mk 8:31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mk 9:31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

Jn 11:23-24 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Mt 19:28 Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mark 10:32-45 ESV

Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time

³²And 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, ³³saying, “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. ³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

³⁵And 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.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸Jesus 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?” ³⁹And 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, ⁴⁰but 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.” ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And 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. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Parable of the Talents in Mt 25, and Parable of Ten Minas in Lk 19...

Ps 84:10 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Mk 7:28 But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Mk 8:36-37 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life?

2Co 4:5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.

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The Ten Commandments

Preach Repentance

The Ten Commandments show us our sin and how much we need a Savior

Confess Together...

I am the Lord your God.

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

The Second Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or his manservant, or his maidservant,
or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

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