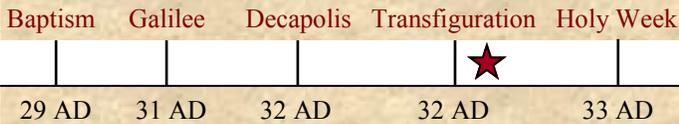
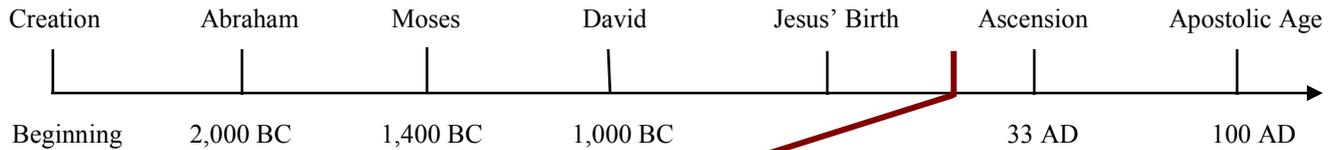


Across the Generations

Learning from God's Word and from Each Other

Sunday, October 8, 2006
 "How do you measure greatness?"

Context and Time Frame



Review

This was the second time Mark records Jesus' teaching his disciples about his betrayal, his crucifixion and death.

The time was getting closer and the disciples needed to understand what was necessary for Jesus to secure the rescue of all people.

Prior to this lesson Jesus was transfigured on a mountain top in Galilee. Most scholars believe this was in the vicinity of Caesarea Philippi. Now they were on their way to Capernaum.

Why was Jesus so concerned about the disciples understanding what was going to happen?

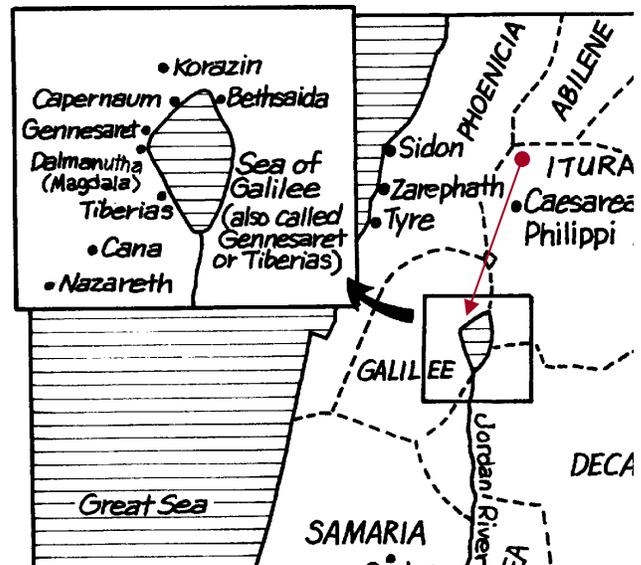
Overview: Mark 9:30-37

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."



Parallel accounts in the Gospels:
 Matthew 17:22-18:6
 Luke 9:43-48

What events may have led up to the disciples' argument about greatness?

Which three disciples may have been at the center of the problem?

Jesus showed greatness in the willingness to serve, why was this view "upside down?"

The little child was the perfect illustration of service. Why?

My View

What do I need to confess about Jesus?

How does fear keep me from understanding the truth about Jesus?

Why is it important to know that Jesus suffered, was crucified, died and rose again?

Evaluate: Only a proper understanding of Jesus' work will lead me to a life of love and service.

Is there any service too menial in the kingdom of God? What do I need to do, if I begin to think some form of service is "below me?"

Closing View

Paul writes — I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

How broad and sweeping is this statement?

Devotional Thoughts - Mark 9:30-37
Monday, October 9th through Saturday, October 14th

Monday

Read Christian Worship 486 st. 1,25

Lord of glory, you have bought us with your life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly freely of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone.
Till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Lord of glory, you have bought us with your life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.

What is the reason for doing everything we do?
What stands in the way of us serving the Lord?
Why is it more blessed to give (to serve) than to receive (be served)?
What does faith, hope and love always focus on?

Prayer Thoughts:

Lord, we know we can be selfish. Change the way we look at ourselves and others. Fill our hearts with your love, so that in all things your love is seen in us.

Tuesday

Read the Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

Compare the Gospel lesson with what we confess in the Creed.
Why did Jesus have to suffer, die and rise again?
Is there salvation apart from Jesus?

Prayer Thoughts

O gracious Savior, I thank you for your precious work. Give me the strength of faith to believe it.
Give me the trust to hold on to it. Bless me with the gifts that flow from it.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 20:20-28

What would have led the disciples' mother to make this request?
What truth was not fully understood yet?
What truth do we miss when we neglect to serve others in love (24-28)?

Prayer Thoughts

Dear Jesus, you came to serve me in love. Fill me with that same selfless love that I may serve you and others.

Thursday

Read the Second Article—What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

What was required to redeem and purchase me from sin, death and the power of the devil?

What is the result of Jesus' work for my salvation — a) for this life b) for eternity

What if this were not most certainly true?

Prayer Thoughts

O blessed Redeemer, you paid the price to secure my release. Accept my love, my unending thanks, and my faithful service in return for your undeserved love.

Friday

Read Christian Worship 482 st. 1 & 4

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, for dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness, while of your richer gifts we're unaware.

Open our eyes to see your love's intent, to know with minds and hearts in depth and height.
Let thankful days in loving labor spent reflect the truly Christ-like life and light.

Why does the Lord have to change our hearts and open our eyes?

Evaluate: Our lack of love and service reflect a lack of understanding of what
Jesus has done and continues to do in our lives.

Why is it so difficult to reflect Christ in all we do?

Prayer Thoughts

O precious Lord, we can never thank you enough or repay you for the great love you have shown us. In your mercy, accept us, cleanse us, and renew us. Then, cause us to grow in every grace and to use every gift—to your glory and praise.

Saturday

Read Mark 9:38-50

What bothered the disciples?

Consider how Jesus ties the attitude of the disciples to sin that causes offense.

Salt is a perfect description of the Christian life—what two purposes do we serve in this life?