

Introduction

There are three things that most people do when they know that their end is near. First, they try to set their house in order. Second, they communicate the most important things that they want to tell people. Second, Third, they reflect on their life and think about what they wished they would have done differently.

If you search the internet, you will see lots of lists of regrets, which give the things that people wished they would have done differently. At the top of most lists is they wish they had not worked so hard. Second, they wished they had spent more time on the important relationships in their life. Third, they wished they had been more courageous and pursued their dreams. Many of the people that share these lists do it so that others can learn from their regrets, so that they do not end up having the same regrets at the end of their lives.

We are in Mark 10, and Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to die. He does not have a life of regret. He has done everything that the Father has asked Him to do. In John 17, in what is known as the Priestly Prayer, Jesus said, "Father, the hour has come." He is talking about His time to die. He is in the garden praying right before His arrest and crucifixion. He went on to say, "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." There were no dying regrets; He had accomplished everything the Father had given Him to do. When I die, I want to be able to say the same thing. "Father, my hour has come. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." Jesus had no regrets about how He spent His life.

(John 17:1-4) "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You...{4} "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do."

In 2 Kings 20, Hezekiah was mortally ill. God sent Isaiah the prophet to him with a message to set his house in order, for he was about to die. That is something that many people try to do. In Hezekiah's case, he pleaded with the Lord and the Lord let him live another fifteen years.

(2 Kings 20:1) "In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live'.... {5} "Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. {6} "I will add fifteen years to your life..."

My father died on July 15, 2019, and his house was in order. I don't believe he had many regrets. He pursued his dreams and worked hard, but he also took time to enjoy his family and his hobbies, like gardening. Before he died, he did have something on his heart that was really important that he wanted to share. On July 14, 2019 I went over to North Ridge Alzheimer's Special Care Center to see my father. He had come back from Presbyterian Hospital, where he had his hip replaced. I took my guitar over with me and played some of my father's favorite songs. He could hear me, but he was not able to sing along that day. After I finished playing I took my phone over to him and dialed my mother. He tried to say something, but all that came out was a whisper. He told my mother, "I love you." Those were the last three words that he ever said. He wanted my mother to know how much he loved her. This was important to him.

Jesus had no regrets about how He spent His life. He did have some important things that were on His mind. If you recall in Mark 8:31, He began telling His disciples that He was going to suffer many things and be rejected, and be killed, and that He would rise again.

(Mark 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.”

In Mark 9 and Luke 9, we have the account of the transfiguration. Jesus took Peter and John up on the mountain to pray. While He was praying, He was transfigured and they saw Moses and Elijah with Him. What were they talking about? They were discussing His departure which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem. Jesus knew His departure was drawing nigh, and He went to the mountain to pray about it. People talk about the things that are on their hearts. Jesus has talked to His disciples, and now He is talking to Moses and Elijah about what is on His heart, which is upcoming death.

(Luke 9:28-31) “Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. {29} And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. {30} And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, {31} who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

In Mark 9, there are three different occasions that Jesus was talking about His death. The transfiguration was the first occurrence. Then, as they were going down the mountain they were discussing it. Then, as they were going to Capernaum, He was telling His disciples again about His upcoming death and resurrection. In verse thirty-two, we find out that “they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.” This was heavy on Jesus’ mind. This was very important to Jesus. He was trying to get His house, the future leaders of the church, in order. He needed them to grasp and understand some very important lessons, and one of those lessons was His death and resurrection. This was critical and they were not grasping it, so He continued to tell them.

(Mark 9:30-32) “From there they went out and *began* to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *about it*. {31} For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.” {32} But they did not understand *this* statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.”

He has just finished answering the questions of the Pharisees about divorce. Then, He taught about children, and how the kingdom of God belongs to them. Finally, as they were leaving to go towards Jericho and on to Jerusalem, a rich young ruler came to Him and asked about eternal life. Jesus told him to go sell his possessions, give to the poor, and then come follow Him. The man’s wealth was his idol, so he went away grieving. So, that is where we left off, and now they are on their way to Jerusalem.

What is Jesus going to talk to them about? In Mark 9:32, they still did not understand what He was telling them, so He is going to tell them one more time about His upcoming departure in Jerusalem. That is not all that He is going to tell them. On the road to Capernaum, when He had

taught them about His arrest, rejection, and death, they were busy discussing which one of them was the greatest, so He had taught them about humility and being servant leaders. They had not got that message either, so today He is going to tell them once more about servant leadership and humility. He is trying to set His house in order, and His leaders needed to have a proper understanding of these things.

In Mark 9, I said that these were Leadership Lessons on the Road to Capernaum. Today, I have called it Lessons on the Road to Jerusalem. In a very similar manner, we are going to talk about Jesus' Mission and His Core Values. These are some of the most important things and He wants to make sure that His disciples understand them before He leaves them, which is very soon. He is trying to set the leaders in His house in order. Let's read our text.

(Mark 10:32-45) "They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, {33} *saying*, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. {34} "They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill *Him*, and three days later He will rise again." {35} James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, *came up to Jesus, saying, "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} They said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on *Your* left, in Your glory." {38} But 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} They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. {40} "But to sit on My right or on *My* left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." {41} Hearing *this*, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. {42} Calling them to Himself, Jesus *said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. {43} "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; {44} and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. {45} "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Lessons on the Way to Jerusalem (Mark 10:32-52)

1. The Gospel Mission (Mark 10:32-34, 45)
2. The Core Value of Humility (Mark 10:35-45)

1. The Gospel Mission (Mark 10:32-34)

They were on the road to Jerusalem. They were in Perea, the land beyond the Jordan, and now they are headed back to Judea and Jerusalem. They will have to pass by Jericho on the way. We see that Jesus is walking on ahead of them. He was a leader. He was walking ahead of His disciples, who were following Him. He may have been praying while He was walking. He may have been meditating on the Scriptures. He may have been listening to the Father. When I used to run, I would come back in afterwards and write down all the things that I had heard the Lord speaking to me while I was running.

(Mark 10:32a) "They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them;"

There are two adjectives that describe the disciples. They were amazed and fearful. Perhaps they were amazed at His conversation with the rich young ruler and what He had told him to do to have eternal life. Perhaps they were amazed about how difficult it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Perhaps they were amazed at his responses to the Pharisees about marriage. We don't know why they were amazed, only that they were amazed. They were also fearful. They had asked Jesus, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus had told them, "with people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." Then, the disciples told Jesus that they had left everything and followed them. Perhaps the disciples were fearful about their own salvation. We don't know why they were amazed and fearful, but that is the context of passage.

(Mark 10:32b) "... and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again, He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him,"

(Mark 10:25-27) "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." {26} They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" {27} Looking at them, Jesus *said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

Then, Jesus took them aside and began to tell them what was about to happen to Him. I think the disciples' minds were on their last conversation while they were walking, but I believe Jesus' mind was about what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem. We generally speak about the things that are on our minds. If you want to know what is on someone's heart, take time to listen to what they are saying. They will generally speak about the things on their heart. What was on Jesus' heart and what He began to tell them was what was about to happen to Him.

Jesus said, we are going up to Jerusalem. There are a number of psalms of ascent (Psalms 120-134). These were Psalms that people would sing as they went up to Jerusalem. The elevation of Jerusalem is 2,474 feet, which is not real high. The Connection Church is at around 5,700 feet. But, it is built on a mountain. It is referred to as a city built on a hill, but it is really built on a mountain. You have to go up as you approach it. If you are coming from the Jordan, which feeds into the Dead Sea, it is a significant ascent. The Dead Sea is -1,410 feet.

(Mark 10:33-34) "*saying*, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. {34} They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill *Him*, and three days later He will rise again."

As they were going up, He told them that the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. When a man was put to death by the Romans, he would be crucified. Jesus had just taught that if anyone wanted to be His disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Him. Jesus was telling His disciples that He is getting ready to be condemned to death by the religious leaders, handed over to the Romans, who would crucify Him. Jesus went on to say that they will mock Him, spit on Him, scourge Him, and kill Him. Last of all, He told them that He would rise again after three days. Jesus could not be any clearer, or to the point than this.

Why was this message so important for Jesus to keep communicating to them? It was important because He did not want His disciples to be caught off guard by what was going to happen to

Him. Their lives were going to be significantly impacted by what was going to happen. Jesus knew that the cock would crow and Peter would have already denied Jesus three times. Jesus knew that they would go to the grave looking for Him, and that He would not be in the grave. Jesus knew that Thomas was not going to believe unless He felt the imprints in Jesus' hand. He is telling them to prepare them for the events to come. In my own life, I have spent more time focusing on the principles to live by and less time on the prophecies of things to come. Both are important. We need to know what is coming, and we are exhorted to be alert and watchful. God does not want us taken by surprise, and Jesus did not want His disciples taken by surprise.

Second, this message was important because it is the gospel message. Jesus was sent here for a reason. He had a mission to accomplish. When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He went to the temple in Nazareth on the Sabbath, and the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him and He read from it. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." Then, He said, "Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus, the anointed Messiah, was sent here to proclaim the gospel.

(Luke 4:17-21) "And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, {18} "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, {19} TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." {20} And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. {21} And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

What is this gospel message? Notice what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. He told the Corinthians that the gospel that he preached was "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." Jesus was giving His disciples the gospel message and this is critically important. Paul said it is this gospel message by which we are saved. There are billions of people in the world that need to hear this same message that Jesus was telling His disciples on the road to Jerusalem.

(1 Cor 15:1-4) "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, {2} by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. {3} For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

Paul had begun his letter to the Corinthians by telling them that they preached Christ crucified. That was the gospel that Paul and the other apostles preached. It is the same gospel message that you and I must preach so that people can be saved. There is no other way to be saved other than the forgiveness of our sins accomplished by the death of Jesus on the cross.

(1 Cor 1:23) “but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,”

In our outline, I put this as the Gospel Mission, and this is correct. Jesus was sent by the Father to save us from our sins. He was introduced by John the Baptist as the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus said in our next section that He did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many. That was Jesus’ mission. Our mission is to preach this gospel message. This was an important conversation on the road to Jerusalem.

(Mark 10:45) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

2. The Core Value of Humility (Mark 10:35-45)

Jesus is talking to His disciples about something vitally important, the gospel message of His death for our sins and His resurrection, and there is another conversation going on behind the scenes. What is on the heart of James and John is their position. They want to be first. They want to be granted to sit at the right and left side of Jesus in heaven.

(Mark 10:35-37) “James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, *came up to Jesus, saying, "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} They said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory.”

In Matthew’s account, we find that the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down, and making a request of Him. There were other people that traveled with Jesus and the disciples. Obviously, James’ and John’s mother was traveling with them. She went to Jesus and made this request. At her side were James and John. This mother wanted her sons to be honored in the kingdom. I think every mother wants their children to be blessed and honored. Mark does not mention their mother. James and John were in agreement with their mother. They were all in this together. All of them were asking this request from Jesus.

(Matt 20:20-22) “Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. {21} And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She *said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left." {22} But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They *said to Him, "We are able.”

There is nothing wrong with asking. Right? James taught that we have not because we ask not. James and John are going for it. They asked Jesus to be His right-hand men in heaven. They wanted the closest and most honorable seats in the kingdom. James also goes on to say that we do not receive because we ask with wrong motives. James and John do not have the most honorable motives.

(James 4:2-3) “You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. {3} You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.”

Jesus responds by telling them that they do not know what they are asking. I think there are many times that I have asked for things and did not know what I was asking. Jesus then asked them a question. “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” Some commentators say that the cup and baptism refer to suffering and afflictions. Some say the cup represents inward suffering, and the baptism represents outward suffering. I believe that the cup that He was about to drink was death. He was going to initiate a new covenant with His own blood. Blood signifies life, and Jesus was about to sacrifice His life so that we could live. Jesus was about to do something that only the Lamb of God could do. The Lamb of God had to be innocent, pure, sinless, a perfect sacrifice. Only Jesus could do that.

(Mark 10:38) “But 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?”

Jesus also asked them if they could be baptized with the baptism that He was going to be baptized. He was going to be put to death, be buried, and be raised from the dead in three days. It was a baptism of death. Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 6. We are baptized into Jesus’ death. We are buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. We are united with Him in the likeness of His death and we are also raised up with Him in the likeness of His resurrection. Paul is talking about how our baptism is a picture of what Jesus went through. Jesus was baptized with the baptism of death. The good news is that He did not just die, He was raised from the dead on the third day. Jesus asked James and John if they could drink His cup and be baptized with His baptism. They did not know what they asked for.

(Rom 6:3-6) “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, {6} knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;”

James and John replied to Jesus, “We are able.” Not only did they not know what they asked for, they did not know what they were saying when they responded. They did not understand what they were asking for, and they certainly did not understand what they were saying in their response. Jesus then told them that they would drink His cup and be baptized with His baptism. Jesus went on to say that their request to sit at His right hand and His left hand was not His to give, but it was for those for whom it has been prepared. When you think about all the great men and women throughout the Bible, that is a pretty arrogant request. There was Enoch that walked with God and God took him. There was Abraham, the father of our faith. There was Noah, a preacher of righteousness. There was Israel. There was Moses, the deliverer of Israel and the one to whom God gave the Law. Moses spoke to the Lord face to face. There was Joshua who brought the children of Israel into the promised land. There was Samuel, the prophet of God. There was David, a man after God’s own heart. There were all these other judges, kings, and prophets. And James and John were asking Jesus to move all of these people aside to give them the seats on either side of Him. That was a pretty lofty request, and Jesus did not grant them that request. He said it was not His to give, and that those places had already been prepared for others.

(Mark 10:39-40) "They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. {40} But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

Notice the effect that this request had on the other ten. They began to feel indignant with James and John. When people have selfish ambition, seek for position, act arrogantly, the fruit is not good. The others were indignant with James and John.

(Mark 10:41) "Hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John."

Notice what James, not the same James, but the half-brother of Jesus, said. He wrote that where there is bitter jealousy and selfish ambition and arrogance, there is disorder and every evil thing. If the church is going to properly reflect God, be His representatives, His ambassadors, and His witnesses, we cannot have jealousy, selfish ambition and arrogance. It turns people off. It makes others indignant.

(James 3:14-16) "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth. {15} This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. {16} For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing."

As the leader, Jesus did not leave things in this condition; He dealt with the situation at hand. He needed these men to be one, just as He and the Father were One. That is what He prayed in John 17, known as the Priestly Prayer. He prayed that the disciples would be one. Arrogance, selfish ambition, and jealousy creates strife, not unity, so Jesus immediately addressed this. He called the disciples to Himself. I can see the Coach out there on the field. He calls a timeout, and He huddled the team together around Him in a circle, and He speaks to all of them to make sure that they were all on the same page. They were not going to call another play until they got on the same page. What did the Coach say to the team of disciples? He told them that the rulers of the Gentiles lord over people and exercise great authority over them. He was telling them that this is the way that worldly leadership operates. "But it is not this way among you." We are not of the world. We don't act like the world. We don't live like the world. We don't lead like the world. We are in the kingdom of God, and we operate by different values. The core values of an organization are how the organization operates. It is not what they do, but how they do it. A core value in the kingdom of God is humility. It is evident by serving one another.

(Mark 10:42-45) "Calling them to Himself, Jesus *said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. {43} "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; {44} and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. {45} "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The world has leaders on top, and ruling in an authoritarian manner. The kingdom of God has leaders who have authority, but are not concerned with position, control, or domination. Kingdom leaders humbly serve others. Jesus set an example of leadership. He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. He was unselfish, and showed the ultimate love by laying

down His life for us. Jesus told them that if they wanted to be great, they needed to learn to be servants. If they wanted to be first, they needed to learn to be the slave of all. James' and John's request revealed that they were concerned about who was first, and who was the greatest. Jesus told them that they needed to learn to be last not first. They needed to put others before themselves. Paul wrote about this in Philippians 2. In verse five, he said, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." What was that attitude? Jesus did nothing from selfishness or empty conceit. Jesus had humility of mind, and regarded others as more important. Jesus did not just look out for His own interests, but He looked out for the interests of others. Jesus humbled and emptied Himself, and took the form of a bond-servant. Even though He existed in the form of God, as part of the trinity, He humbled Himself and became a servant. He further humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on the cross. Jesus wanted His disciples to learn this lesson of humility, just as He wants you and I to learn this same lesson.

(Phil 2:3-8) "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; {4} do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. {5} Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, {6} who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, {7} but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. {8} Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Conclusion and Applications

The message today was not a new message to the disciples. Jesus had been telling His disciples what was on His mind many times. He was going to Jerusalem where He would be arrested, condemned, handed over to the Romans, put to death, buried, and then be raised up on the third day. This was the gospel message, but the disciples were interested in other things. They were interested in their position. They wanted to be first. They wanted to sit at the right hand and left hand of Jesus.

In some ways, this reminds me of the church. The church has heard about the gospel message. The church has heard that we are to go preach the gospel. The church has heard that we are to preach Christ crucified. However, we have other things on our mind besides the gospel. We want position. I have known many people seeking position in the church. I have seen people that want power and authority, just like the rulers of the Gentiles. I have seen selfish ambition and jealousy in the church. I have seen the fruit of this. The fruit is no different than our text, where the other disciples were indignant with James and John. The church is indignant and put out with one another. These actions do not bring unity; they bring division and strife.

God is coming for a pure and spotless bride. In Ephesians, we read that Jesus is going to present the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless. Jesus took the disciples aside and addressed these issues. He took a time out and huddled His team together and addressed these issues. Our text today is an opportunity for us to step aside and address these issues. God wants you and I to be humble servants. We are not to be jockeying for position; we are to find ways to serve. We are not to be preoccupied with other things, but we should be focused on our mission, which is to preach the gospel.

(Eph 5:27) “that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”

How are you doing? Let’s ask ourselves some questions.

- Where is your focus? Are you focused on the mission that Jesus gave the church? Are you focused on reaching out to others with the gospel message?
- What are your ambitions? Is your ambition to humbly serve? How are you currently serving in the body of Christ? Have you looked for areas to serve? Are you humbly laying your life down for others, or are you living your life for your own goals and pursuits?
- Are you connected to the body? Are you connected relationally? Are you supporting the local church with your tithes and offerings? Our church has been financially blessed because of your faithfulness in giving tithes and offerings. Are you supporting the church with your prayers? Are you supporting the church through your serving? Do you know what the needs of the church are?

Let’s Pray.

Father God, we come humbly before You today. Thank You for calling a time out and huddling us together. Thank You for reminding us that there is a mission to accomplish. Thank You for drinking the cup You drank and undergoing the baptism that You did so that we could have life. You humbly gave Your life as a ransom for us. You unselfishly gave Your life in place of our lives. Thank You for the sacrifices that You made, and for our salvation. Thank You for living the gospel message. Lord, give us boldness and anointing to preach this gospel message. Lord, You have prepared good works in advance for us to walk in, and we ask You to show us these works. We ask You to lead us in our outreach this coming year. Father God, help us to have the right heart attitude as we go about doing Your business. Help us to be a church full of humble servants. Help us to be a church that is unified through love and humility. I ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Q&A

Introduction (John 17:1-4, 2 Kings 20:1, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:28-31, Mark 9:30-32, 10:32-45)

1. The Gospel Mission (Mark 10:25-27, 32-34, Luke 4:17-21, 1 Cor 15:1-4, 1 Cor 1:23, Mark 10:45)

2. The Core Value of Humility (Mark 10:35-45, Matt 20:20-22, James 4:2-3, Rom 6:3-6, James 3:14-16, Phil 2:3-8)

Conclusion and Applications (Eph 5:27)