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MATTHEW

HIS LIFE TO GIVE MATTHEW 20:17-28

- I. From What to How
 - a. What does it mean to be more like Jesus?
 - i. Goes well past behavior modification to transformed desires – motivations are changed, our perspectives are shifted, our will become God's will
 - ii. This is what it means to be born again
 - b. Last week we saw the incredible gulf between the heart of man and the heart of Jesus
 - i. The Parable of the Workers exposed God's ways are from ours
 1. The workers were upset because the landowner made the other works "equal to them"
 2. Summed up in this statement – *Mat 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?*
 - ii. Jesus wants to take us from comparison and envy into a place where we celebrate when others are blessed, as if it were happening to us
 1. Gratitude for God's grace drives out envy and entitlement and gives us the freedom to rejoice when others rejoice while removing self from the equation
 - c. We want that, but how do we get there?
 - i. If last week we asked what does it mean to be more like Jesus, this week the questions becomes asks a different question - how is it even possible?
 - ii. Jesus answers that question by telling them, for the third time, exactly what it will cost Him

Mat 20:17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road, and said to them, 18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

- II. Jesus' Death and Resurrection
 - a. This is not the first time He has said this, but this is definitely that most detail He has provided
 - i. First (16:21) – "must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things... and be killed, and be raised the third day" – fairly general but death and resurrection
 - ii. Second (17:22-23) – "will be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him" – adds betrayal
 - iii. Third - betrayed, condemned, delivered to the Gentiles, mocked, scourged, crucified – the first time He has spoken the word "crucify"
 1. Only the Romans could crucify people – prophetically specific
 - iv. This is not vague suffering – this is a very specific path of humiliation, death, and resurrection

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." 22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." 23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

III. The Cup

- a. *Grant that these my two sons may sit, one on your right hand, and the other on the left, in your kingdom*
 - i. Immediately after Jesus describes His humiliation and execution, the mother of James and John ask for the two seats of highest honor in a royal court
- b. *Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?*
 - i. The cup – a regular Old Testament image for appointed suffering or judgment poured out by God's
 1. *Isaiah 51:17 Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the Lord The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out.*
 2. *Jer 25:15 For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. 16 And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them."*
 3. *Psalm 75:15 For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. 16 And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them."*
 - ii. He isn't asking whether they can handle greatness or status or importance, He's asking whether they can handle suffering
 - iii. *We are able* – they really have no idea what they are agreeing to, but one day they will, and they will do so gladly
- c. *You will drink my cup...*
 - i. That is the immense encouragement in all of this – Jesus takes men who are arguing over greatness and transforms them into men who are willing to lay down their lives for the glory of God and the good of others
 1. *2 Corinthians 4:10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*
 2. *Phil 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*
 3. *1 Pet 4:12-13 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*
 - ii. The path that leads to this where envy is pushed out by gratitude is the path that Jesus just described

IV. Sharing in His Suffering – Following Jesus to the Cross

- a. Many what the lifestyle of Jesus without the life of Jesus – we want to be like Jesus without walking the path of Jesus
 - i. "Going up to Jerusalem"
 1. The carnal mind is fundamentally self-seeking and self-serving. Resistant to discomfort
 2. Comparison, envy, jealousy are all results of a self-centered mindset that is bent on protecting and promoting itself
 - a. Jesus does the exact opposite. He walks toward the place He knows will cost Him everything
 - b. Before He says a single word about servanthood in this passage, He lives it out
 - ii. Will be betrayed
 1. What does the carnal mind do when it is betrayed or wronged by someone else?
 - a. Goes into self-protection mode. It withdraws, retreats, isolates, retaliates, repays evil for evil, hardens so it can't be hurt again
 - b. Jesus knows exactly who will betray Him and exactly when
 - c. He continues to dine with Judas the same table, offer Him the same opportunities as the other disciples
 - i. Who Judas was and what Judas was about to do had no impact on who Jesus was and what Jesus was about to do
 - d. That is what it means to be like Jesus – we are who we are not based on what people do to us but based on what Jesus has done for us
 - iii. Condemned to death and delivered to the Gentiles
 1. What was the theme of last week's parable – "That's not fair"
 2. This is not fair – this is not equitable – the righteousness of Christ pronounced guilty and condemned to death
 - a. But equity was not on His mind, salvation was
 - b. Purchasing us, redeeming us from death, and for that He willfully gave His life
 - c. It is so freeing when we quit worrying about what we think we are entitled to, what we think is fair, and just trust God to give us what we need
 - iv. To mock and scourge and to crucify and the third day He will rise again
 1. This is 19:30 and 20:16 "the last will be first"
 2. No longer a proverb followed by a parable
 3. Jesus will live this out in the front of the disciples
 4. He doesn't avoid suffering because He knows after the suffering comes the reward
 - a. ***Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

5. The reward, the glory comes through suffering and dying, through laying down one's life
 - a. Paul writes in *Romans* - *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*"
 - b. It's not pain for the sake of pain. There is purpose in it.
 - c. That's the nature of the Kingdom of God, and Jesus is the first and only person who has ever fully lived it out
6. ***Ephesians 2:4-6 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.***

24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

V. Not to Be Served, But to Serve

- a. ***When the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brothers***
 - i. This isn't righteous indignation – they are just concerned that James and John will get something they won't someone else got there first
- b. ***The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them... it shall not be so among you***
 - i. The world's model – greatness measured by how many serve you and what you get from those beneath
 - ii. The Kingdom of God flips this completely – greatness measured by how many you serve
- c. ***Even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many***
 - i. Ransom (Greek *lytron*) – the purchase price paid to free a slave
 - ii. "For" (Greek *anti*, literally "instead of, in place of") – pointing to Christ taking our place
 1. My life for your good - servanthood
- d. This is where gratitude starts to replace envy
 - i. Seeing what Jesus' did for you and me – looking at all the He endured and realizing "that's what I deserved, and He stood in my place"
 - ii. Where is there room for entitlement in a heart filled with gratitude and appreciation for what Jesus has done
 - iii. There's nothing left to protect or measure or covet because Jesus already gave us everything
 1. The only thing left to do is follow Him

2. *1 Peter 4:1 "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."*
3. *John 12:24, 26 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain... If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."*