



Mark 10:28–34

28 Then Peter spoke up, ‘We have left everything to follow you!’ 29 ‘Truly I tell you,’ Jesus replied, ‘no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – along with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal

life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.' 32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. 33 'We are going up to Jerusalem,' he said, 'and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.'

Reflection

‘Who then can be saved!’ Jesus’ disciples call out before realisation dawns. The most likely candidate they have encountered to date for the kingdom of heaven is walking sullenly away, choosing his great wealth over the nomadic, impoverished lifestyle of following Jesus. Then the penny drops – and a whole lot more – in today’s passage, from Mark 10:28–34,

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It’s a passage of highs and lows, much

like the Christian life. As the rich young ruler trudges away empty handed when it comes to eternal life, Jesus' disciples realise just how much they have left behind to serve their Lord. It is the same for all of us, different but also the same, each must let go of possessions or prestige or passions or position or person to come to Jesus. The rich young ruler was unwilling to let go of his trust in money but the disciples had let go of their businesses and their trades and many relationships including relationships with close family in order to take up their crosses and follow Jesus. And in today's passage Jesus continues to show them the sacrifices that their future path will hold. But before he does so, these words of promise, to them and to us and to all who've made sacrifices, especially in the area of relationships for the

kingdom of God, verse 29,

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These are precious words, worthy of being memorised and recalled often by heart and mind. The Christian life is costly, but in it there is also very great reward. Both in the here and now, as well as in the age to come. Jesus, of course, is speaking of the church. It is true our allegiance to him

may cost us mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers, even children, but in the church we gain a whole new family in Christ, one that is even closer than blood, let alone to speak of what awaits us in eternity.

But from this highpoint, Jesus plunges his disciples into the grim reality of what is about to follow.

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Daniel 7 reads,

13 'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

But before these things could come to pass the great prophecies of Isaiah also needed

to be fulfilled. In particular, these words from Isaiah 52 & 53, because the Son of Man of Daniel (Jesus' favourite term for himself) – the long-awaited Messiah – is also Isaiah's suffering servant,

See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

14 Just as there were many who were appalled at him –

his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being

and his form marred beyond human likeness –

15 so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,

and what they have not heard,
they will understand.

53 Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the
Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a ten-
der shoot,

and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to at-
tract us to him,

nothing in his appearance that
we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by
mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar
with pain.

Like one from whom people hide
their faces

he was despised, and we held

him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by
God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our trans-
gressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us
peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone
astray,
each of us has turned to our own
way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

and as a sheep before its shearers
is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he
was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of
the living;

for the transgression of my people
he was punished.

9 He was assigned a grave with the
wicked,

and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,

he will see his offspring and prolong his days,

and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered,

he will see the light of life and be satisfied;

by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,

and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,

and he will divide the spoils with the strong,

because he poured out his life unto death,

and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors. Isa 52:13–53:12

Think & Pray

These spine-tingling words of prophecy, already 700 years old at the time of Jesus, were fulfilled precisely in the passion (and triumphant resurrection) of Jesus Christ that Jesus unerringly predicts in today's passage in Mark. Perhaps you'd like to spend the time remaining this morning retracing these words of prophecy. They are incontrovertible historical evidence that Jesus is Lord; unexplainable outside of the claims he made about himself that were emphatically sealed by his resurrec-

tion from the dead. But as you reflect over Isaiah's words and our passage today, don't miss the agony Jesus went through on your behalf. These truths have been hidden from some, as they were initially from the disciples, but they have been revealed to you and confirmed in your heart through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Praise Jesus this morning for all he did for you on the cross!