

TOUGH TALKS

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Engaging the hard-hitting, life-giving teaching of Jesus

Mark's Gospel, chapter 9

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They left that place and passed through Galilee.

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.'

Mark's Gospel

(adapted from Abraham Kuruvilla)

Act I 1:1 – 8:21	Act II 8:22 – 10:52	Act III 11:1 – 16:20
Who is Jesus?	What's His Mission?	Executing Mission
Acts/Teaching by Parables	Direct Teaching/ Few Acts	Action
Crowd/Leaders/ Disciples/Jesus	Jesus & Disciples (Together)	Jesus Alone
"In boat" / Towns & Villages	"On the way" ... to Jerusalem	In Jerusalem
Failure to "See"	Failure to "Accept"	Failure to "Follow"

Act II

(adapted from Abraham Kuruvilla)

1

Prediction: 8:31

Son of man must suffer
& be rejected: Jewish
leaders

Rise after 3 days

“follow” ... “whoever
wishes” ... “save/lose
life” ... Peter rebuked

2

Prediction: 9:31

Son of man delivered
into the hands of men

Rise after 3 days

“follow” ... “if anyone
wishes” ... “first/last” ...
Disciples quarrel

3

Prediction: 10:33,34

In Jerusalem ... Handed
over to Gentiles ...
mocked, spit on, scourged

Rise after 3 days

“follow” ... “whoever
wishes” ... “greatest/least”
... Brothers petition

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.'

Jesus did not come to make us better;
He came to make us his

Jesus doesn't lead by demanding from us,
but by giving all of himself to us and for us

*The Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a
ransom for many.*

*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 been arguing about who was the greatest?

*Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and
said ...*

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Whoever wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

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Our problem is not our desire for great;
it's our distorted vision of great

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Two qualities that mark a servant:
“Humility” & “Submission”

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Whoever wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Serving rules ...

Really serving is really leading

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, but through love serve one another

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

Servant Heart Measure 1

Giving attention to those
from whom I will get nothing in return

Servant Heart Measure 1

God measures my significance
by the attention I give to those
who are insignificant

Servant Heart Measure 1

Stop looking at who is not
giving you attention;
Start looking for someone who
needs your attention

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us ...”

“... I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of cold water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.”

“... We told him to stop because he was not one of us ...”

*“... We told him to stop because he was not
~~one of us~~ ...”*

”following”

Servant Heart Measure 2

Am I jealous of someone else's success?

Servant Heart Measure 2

Am I jealous of someone else's success?

Criticism is often an outward indicator
of a jealous heart

“If anyone causes these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea ...

“If you hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.”

“And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where ‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched’.”

Servant Heart Measure 3

How seriously am I taking the impact I have on others and my environment?

What am I giving up in order to grow up?

*Everyone will be salted with fire.
Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness,
how can you make it salty again? Have
salt in yourself, and be at peace with one
another.*

Servant Heart Measure 3

How seriously am I taking the impact I have on others and my environment?

What "fire" am I choosing?
Purifying fire or judging fire?

Questions for Reflection

How seriously do I want to ...

- Increase my effectiveness?
- Increase cohesiveness?
- Elevate my status?

Questions for Reflection

How seriously do I want to ...

- Increase my effectiveness?
- Increase cohesiveness?
- Elevate my status?

Enough to “just” be a servant?

Questions for Reflection

How would it look this week if in my heart I accepted Jesus' paradigm that ...

... the race to the “top” is really a race to the “bottom?”

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