

Jesus Puts Up With Us – Our Selfish Desires

Mark 9:33-37

Introduction:

Mark 9:19 (ESV) ¹⁹And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.”

Weak Faith (Mark 9:14-29; Mt 17:19-20) **No Prayer = No Power**

Immature Perspective (Mark 9:30-32; Mt 16:25-26) **No Death = No Life**

I. **Selfish Desires** (Mark 9:33-37) **No Service = No Glory**

Mark 9:33-37 (ESV) ³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

Mark 10:35-45 (ESV) ³⁵And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸Jesus 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?” ³⁹And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Philippians 2:3-11 (ESV) ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.** ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷**but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant,** ⁸being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,** ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

II. **It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive.**

Acts 20:35 (NKJV) ³⁵I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must

support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

Givers & Takers: To the degree that our primary focus is to get what we want, we are... *demanding, self-willed, discontented, inconsiderate, blaming, self-righteous, lonely.*
Givers are kind-hearted, joyful, rewarded, LOVED and fulfilled.

A. God Blesses Us Much In Order For Us To Give Much

2 Cor. 9:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Luke 6:37-38 (NKJV) ³⁷“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

B. Every Command to LOVE Is A Command To GIVE.

John 3:16, “God so loved the world that He gave...”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NKJV) ⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

C. What We Want – It’s Never Enough (*King Solomon, Ecclesiastes*)

D. What We Want – Costs Us Plenty (*Prodigal Son; King David & His Family*)

E. What We Want – Destroys Happiness (*Friends, Family, Brethren*)

- Galatians 5:13 (ESV)** ¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. **Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.** ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵But if you **bite and devour one another**, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

F. Choosing to SERVE OTHERS is a Choice to be Blessed.

- John 13:14-17 (NKJV)** ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷**If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**

Conclusion: We Can Rejoice That Jesus Puts Up With Us In Our...

A. **Weak Faith** (9:14-29) – No Prayer, No Power

B. **Immature Understanding** (9:30-32) – Will We Learn that Death Brings Life?

C. **Selfish Desires** (9:33-37) – Selfishness Is the Anti-Servant