

Scripture Reading:

Please go ahead and turn in your Bibles to **Mark 10, Mark 10** for our scripture reading today... We are in **Mark 10:35-45** ...And I will ask you to please stand if you are able to do so for the reading of God's Word...

Mark 10:35-45

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."

Introduction:

Good morning...It is great to be here at Calvary Bible Church...It is an honor to be here with all of you. So, if someone didn't tell you...today is Christmas Eve...I see a few panicked looks in the audience...Yes, I think Walmart is still open...

Some more good news is that I plan to give you all a Christmas present on Christmas Eve...I plan to end a few minutes earlier than normal...Cause I imagine many of us will be back tonight and many have plans for this afternoon...

If you do not know, my name is Byron Bradshaw and I am the pastor here at Calvary...If you are new here or visiting I would love to help you connect here at Calvary...Feel free to email me or call the office and I would love to visit with you...

Laurel and I, Brynn and Bradshaw baby #3 are all excited for the Christmas season and excited to be here...

I was talking with someone from Calvary earlier this week and we were mutually sharing our excitement for what the Lord has done and what we both felt that the Lord is going to do...It's a great time to be part of this church...

Before we begin this morning let us go to the Lord in prayer...

Let Us Pray...

ME:

Good morning once again...

Since today is Christmas Eve, it seems appropriate **to pause** for one Sunday from our study of the Book of James and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas...

For many Americans, Christmas is about Santa Claus...About relaying the tale of a big man sliding down a chimney and stacking gifts under a tree...

For many Americans, Christmas is a time to glorify small cheerful creatures that make gifts at the North Pole...Pumping out 1000 etch o sketches a day...

For many, Christmas is about communicating the good enough mentality... if you are good enough you avoid Santa's naughty list...

Or even for others...Christmas is about reflecting upon the holidays by watching holiday classics such as *It's a Wonderful Life* or watching movies about kids getting their tongue stuck to a light pole...

Transition: But truly...Christmas is a wonderful time of year...

Christmas is a time to spend with family...To see our children, grandchildren, great

grandchildren or perhaps even great great grandchildren open presents...Excited to see young children open their on Christmas morning with grins...then run down the stairs and slide on their knees into the living room...

Christmas is a wonderful time to spend time with loved ones over some good food... To get together and make the holiday classic dishes...But perhaps food is only the placebo to the wholesome conversations that happen around the table and around the fire...

Christmas is a wonderful time for viewing Christmas lights...to get out of our cars and trespass onto someone's lawn...probably the person who owns the house on Horseshoe Bend...

Christmas is a wonderful time to not just receive gifts but also to give gifts...To watch our loved ones tear open the wrapping paper and see hopefully the joy sweep over their faces...

Transition: But I have a question for you?...What is really the reason for the season?

As many of us know...Christmas really isn't about lights or food...Christmas isn't really about getting or even giving gifts...Rather, Christmas is about what we've been given...

Christmas...should be a time where we reflect upon the gift we've been given...which is God in the flesh...God Incarnate...That God...God the Son...Became Man... That God who came down to earth not setting aside his deity but taking his 100% deity and becoming 100% man...

The incarnation or God's "taking on flesh" is reflected most clearly in John 1... "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth..."

Transition: But many of us know the reason for the season...Many of us in this room know the reason we have Christmas...The real reason is the celebration that our Savior took on flesh...

Transition: But I bet many of us do not know something....I bet many of us do not know the totality of WHY He actually came...Oh sure we know some of the reasons...

Many Christians know that Christmas is about remembering God in the flesh but I bet many Christians have not sought to understand the totality of WHY HE came...

Transition: So for this message I sought to answer this very question..."Why did Jesus come?"

In order to find my answer I went searching...I went searching for every instance where Jesus said, "I have come" and you know how many I found? I found 11 in the Gospel accounts...

GOD:

There are eleven times Jesus said “I have come..” You ready to hear them? Write them down if you wish...Because For the sake of time, I do not have time to expound on all of them but I suggest writing these down for your later study...The first one is found in Matthew 5:17...

Matthew 5:17, ““Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

Matthew 10:34, ““Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

Mark 2:17, “And hearing *this*, Jesus *said to them, “*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.””

Luke 5:32, “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.””

Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.””

John 3:17, “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

John 6:38, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me”

John 9:39, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.””

John 12:46, “I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

John 18:37, “Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.””

Now, how many is that? Should be 10...Well...I purposefully skipped one...The one I skipped is the one we will talk about this morning...I do not have the time to expound and exegetically unwrap each of the 11 but I would like to unwrap the one I left off...

Come with me to Mark 10:45...Mark 10:45...There is a parallel passage in Matthew 20:28...but today we will examine Mark’s account...

Let us begin with the context of the passage in verse 35...

Read Mark 10:35-44, “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, “[u]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.”

What are the disciples James and John concerned with? Their position in Jesus’ future kingdom...And how does Jesus respond? Jesus responds by saying that it wasn’t his position to

give...**Think about this:** Think about the disciples' terrible timing...Because if you flip over a page in your Bible to Mark 11...you will see that Mark 11 is the Triumphant Entry...So basically the day before he begins His passion week leading to His death they ask this silly question...

Transition: But James and John are not the only guilty party here...Look at how the other disciples react...

Read Mark 10:41-44- ¹ Hearing *this*, the ten began to feel indignant with ^[o]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.”

How does Jesus handle this situation? He addresses the conflict that is brewing...And basically said to not set your eyes on your heavenly position but rather focus on serving...As Verse 44 states... “For whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all...”

Transition: But we still haven't answered the question...Why did Jesus come? What reasons does this passage give us for why he came?

Look at verse 45...This is where we will spend the vast majority of our time together this morning...Look at verse 45...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.””

Transition: Now, this one verse is absolutely packed...I mean packed with profound theological and practical implications...

Jesus actually in this one verse gives us two reasons WHY He came...Yet, in order to really appreciate the **two reasons** we must first appreciate perhaps one of the most significant theological phrases in the entire Bible...

Notice the first phrase...“**For even the Son of Man...**did not come to be served...but to serve...”

The three words “Son of Man” Have HUGE implications...Because through these three words...What is Jesus saying about Himself?...This phrase “The Son of Man” has **Anthropological, Messianic and Eschatological significance...**

By Jesus calling Himself “The Son of Man” it reveals His **anthropological identity** which is that He is fully human...That He is a Son of *Man*...HE is still fully God but He is also Fully

Man...But this is of less emphasis in this particular passage...

Second, by Jesus calling Himself “The Son of Man” it has next significance of identifying Him as the Messianic Savior...The Messianic Savior...

To put it another way...By Jesus saying that He is the “Son of Man” He is exclaiming to all His disciples that He is the promised Messiah...That He is the Messiah that has been sent by God to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies and to pay the penalty for mankind’s sin...

Specifically, Many scholars believe Jesus by using this phrase is purposefully reaching back to the Old Testament passage of as Isaiah 52 and 53... That Jesus is saying...“I am the suffering servant...I am the suffering servant sent to pay for the sins of mankind as predicted 500 years ago...

Jesus is exclaiming to them that He is the one it describes when it says...

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our ^[i]well-being *fell* upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To ^[i]fall on Him...”

By Jesus using the phrase “Son of Man” He is exclaiming that I am the Messianic Savior...

Transition: So Jesus uses this phrase to exclaim His humanity and also that He is the Messianic Savior...But I believe Jesus is using this phrase to also exclaim His future as the **Eschatological Hero...**He seems to be referencing the Son of Man who is the Eschatological Hero **found in Daniel 7...**

Listen to this friends...Simply an awesome passage about our Savior...A passage that describes the eschatological victory of our Savior who is the Son of Man...Daniel 7:13-14 states,

“I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

¹⁴“And to Him was given dominion,

Glory and ^[k]a kingdom,
 That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* ^[l]language
 Might serve Him.
 His dominion is an everlasting dominion
 Which will not pass away;
 And His kingdom is one
 Which will not be destroyed.”

Wow...By Jesus saying the Son of Man He is saying... I am that guy...I am not only man, I am not only the Messianic savior but I am that man of victory...I am the Son of Man...Who will rule in an everlasting dominion which all peoples, nations and men from every language WILL SERVE ME...”

That One DAY I will Stand before people from EVERY nations from EVERY tongue and they ALL WILL SERVE ME...I am man, messiah and the eschatological victor...ruler...

Transition: But Friends...Notice Something...Notice Mark 10:45...Notice what He didn't come for... “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many...”

Even the messiah and the universal ruler did not come the first time to be served...

But think about it Friends: He had every right to want to be served...**He is GOD...**But He set that aside...Jesus set aside his ego...His position...His corner office and decided instead of being served He came to serve... HE set aside His right to instead pick up a towel and serve...But instead He came to Serve...

Our Savior, Lord and Christ came as a child...Came on Christmas morning...Came to a virgin named Mary...Born in a town of Bethlehem...Our Savior who existed in eternity past, who was the Word...**Came to earth was to Serve...**

Point #1: Jesus came to Serve: Jesus did not come to be served but rather to serve...

But then we must answer the question...Why did Jesus serve? Jesus does not explicitly answer this question here but it is an important question to answer...

I believe there are three reasons why Jesus came to serve...:

I believe one reason Jesus came to serve was to **Meet Practical Needs-** I believe Jesus sincerely loves all people and cared to show His affection by meeting the practical needs of people around Him...

I believe the second reason Jesus came to serve was to Prove His Gospel Message- the miracles and examples of service proved time and time again the legitimacy of His claims...That He is not only the **Messianic Savior** but He is also the **Eschatological Hero**...

I believe the third reason Jesus came to serve was to give us an example to follow...I believe Jesus came also to provide us a *audio visual* example of what it looks like for us to be servants of others...To be servants of the Most High means to be servants of others...Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples feet and exclaims to them, “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet...”

So, The first reason according to Mark 10:45 that Jesus came...was to serve... Jesus, the Word Incarnate came to the world as a baby to Serve...But then He came for another reason which is found in 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...”

Point #2: Jesus came to give His life as ransom...as ransom for many...That Jesus came to pay a ransom with His life...

Now there is an obvious question...What ransom? Literally the original language Jesus says the phrase this... “and to give his soul a ransom on behalf of many...”

But what ransom do we owe? Listen friends, Jesus’ willful death frees those who believe in Him from the slavery of sin...That Jesus paid a ransom that frees all those who believe in Him from the bondage of alienation from God...” (Mathew Exegetical Baker 488)....

So not only did Jesus come in the form of a baby...Not only did God the Son take on flesh to serve **but also to pay our ransom**...To pay a debt that we were hopeless to pay...That God the Son from His throne in heaven saw the plight of His creation...That we were in debt with bill we could not pay and the penalty for lack of payment was eternal death....

I recently heard a story that illustrated this idea of ransom well...

Story of a Son getting a speeding ticket...

The story begins with a 16 year old boy in a sports car...(you see where this is going)...The 16 year old was pulled over by the police and caught red handed...This young man was going 85 in a 50 mile an hour zone...

This young man was dead to rights... And this young man had no way to pay for this speeding ticket...This young man was terrified to tell his dad because his dad was an important no none

sense kind of person... This young man was sealed to his fate with an unpayable fine that will possibly lead to an increased ransom or perhaps even jail time...

This young man shows up to court dead to rights with no way to pay... The judge walked into the room and behold it was this young boy's father... His father obviously surprised and perplexed examines the evidence against his son and smashes the anvil down and says... GUILTY...

The young man embarrassed lowers his head in shame... But then the boy looks up and sees the Father do something rather unexpected... Right after the father slams the anvil declaring his son guilty for his sin... The father walks down beside his son and writes a check to pay His ransom...

That my friends is a simplified story of what Jesus did for us... Jesus saw our plight in heaven... Jesus sat behind the desk of heaven declared us guilty but loved us so much he came down to meet us and paid our ransom for our sin with His life...

Transition: Friends that is love... And that is what Jesus did...

Listen to these words in Romans 3... "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. ²⁴ But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed."

You:

Friends... Jesus paid our ransom... Jesus paid our ransom for a sinful debt that we could not pay on our own... So that He could declare us righteous by faith...

Friends if you do not know Jesus Christ then you receive His ransom payment by faith... You are set free from your debt of sin by believing in Jesus Christ as your Savior (your purchaser... your redeemer...)... You believe he died seeing the stain of your sin and through His death you have been made clean...

Friends you gain His eternal life... You eternal life... You gain righteousness by faith in Him... If you have never placed your faith in Jesus Christ then I encourage you to do so...

Transition: However, if you are sitting there this morning and you have already believed in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior... Then, Don't worry you're not off the hook...

If you are a believer then your job this holiday season and beyond is **not to be served but to serve**... Friends, let this verse inspire you NOT to be like the disciples who are consumed only with themselves but rather let the example of Christ inspire you... Jesus had every right to be served but he set that aside to be an example and a ransom....

Today, in your worship folder, you got a nice little present... This should be our motto for the holiday season... We should be like Jesus and this should be our motto... That we are here to serve...

But you know what is interesting about this little reminder? That we got this (Actually Robyn and John Patterson) actually got this from Chili's... Which tells me something... The world might have a better idea of service than even some churches...

Friends, we are here to serve... Just like Jesus...

My point for you today is not to be served but to serve... But then... How? How should we serve? I plan to give you a couple of tips on how to serve during this holiday season...

#1: Serve your family or loved ones... Tonight as you go home... Do something out of the ordinary to show that you love your family and example Christ...

Or you can serve in other ways... It may not be your family or doing something extraordinary... It could be not leaving your shoes in the floor... It could be washing the dishes when unexpected... It could be giving a kind word of encouragement... It could be baking cookies and taking it to the shut in next door... It could be sharing the Gospel with a lost family member

#2: Set Self Aside: Just know you are going to get gifts you don't like tomorrow... Instead of a grumpy look give a smile and a hug and communicate that it really isn't about the gift after all but really that it is about serving others and it is about remember and appreciating your Savior... You made you, bought you, and will redeem you...

WE:

As I close let us remember the real reason for Christmas...

That God came in the form of man to serve and to pay... That God came down saw my plight and washed away my sins with his blood...

As a close... I'd like share with you an old hymn... It is one of my favorite songs of all time... It is a rather simple lyric but hold profound truth and summarizes the passage today quite well...

The hymn is called...Jesus Paid It All...And it says this...

I hear the savior say, thy strength indeed is small

Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all

'Cause Jesus paid it all

All to him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find thy power and thine alone

Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone

'Cause Jesus paid it all

All to him I owe

My sin had left this crimson stain, he washed it white as snow

And when before the throne I stand in him complete

"Jesus died my soul to save" my lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all

All to him I owe

(Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow)

AMEN

Let US PRAY TOGETHER