

Week 9 Passage Summary for Mark 10:35-45

NT622.OA Mark (English Text)

Professor: Dr Shawn Craigmiles

Student: Marcia Bailey

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Your Name

Craigmiles

Class Number: Semester

Date: MM/DD/YY

Passage-Chapter Summary

Passage Reference: Mark 10:35-45

You will be using **only** your Bible and your course textbooks to complete this assignment.

You will not be making use of other online, public-domain commentaries and/or teaching/preaching websites, such as, but not limited to, the following:

1. Barnes' Notes
2. Matthew Henry's Commentary
3. Adam Clarke's Commentary
4. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown (JFB) Bible Commentary
5. Other similar commentaries from the 1700s, 1800s, and early 1900s
6. Online Sermon, Preaching, and Teaching websites and the commentaries found on them.

If you have any doubt about whether you should or should not use a source, please contact me *before using it*, and I will be happy to provide you with some guidance. In general, if you cannot determine the author, the date, and/or the publisher, then the source is not appropriate for your use in this paper.

Scripture references ***should not*** be in footnotes, but instead in parenthetical citations like this (**Jonah 1:1-4**) or this (**1 Thess 4:1-8**). They are the only things that you will cite using parenthetical citations.

For all other information that you include from another source, such as the notes from *Jewish Annotated New Testament*, a modern commentary, a modern Bible dictionary, etc., you will cite the source using **footnotes (NO parenthetical Author-Date citations!)** in accordance with the Turabian style manual.

Here are what the footnotes for your required texts and some other common references should look like, with ### representing the page number(s) you would insert (feel free to cut and paste them into your footnotes when needed):

Feel free to copy and paste these footnotes and bibliography entries as needed, changing the ### to the proper page number or page number range.

Craig S. Keener and John H. Walton, eds., *NRSV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019), ###.

Mark L. Strauss, *Mark*, ed. Clinton E. Arnold, ZECNT (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2014), ###.

Burton H. Throckmorton, *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels, New Revised Standard Version*, 5th ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992), ###.

Joel Williams, *Mark*, ed. Andreas J. Köstenberger and Robert W. Yarbrough (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2020), ###.

Ben Witherington, *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001), ###.

Daniel B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997), ###.

For more information about footnotes and bibliography entries, please consult the sample footnotes and bibliography document in the Course Resources.

Please respond to each of the following questions/prompts, providing your answer/response after the question/prompt. ***Please do not delete any of the questions/prompts!***

Observation:

- What is happening in the passage?

This passage is a conversation between Jesus and the disciples James and John. And then Jesus teaching the disciples about how to be leaders as his disciples in the kingdom of God. With himself as an example of being the servant and that why he came.

In this passage 2 of the disciples, the brothers James and John ask Jesus to give them thrones to the right and left of him when he comes into his glory. They try to first get him to agree to give them whatever they ask but Jesus does not do that. He asks them what they want him to do for them and after their request Jesus asks whether they can drink the cup he has to drink or undergo the baptism he is baptized with. They answer that they can and Jesus states that indeed they shall do so but he also explains to them that it is the Father alone who determines who sits where. The other disciples learn of their request and are upset but Jesus then proceeds to teach them all on what it means to be a leader or a ruler in the kingdom. Unlike the gentile world the leader or ruler in the kingdom must be a servant and slave to all because they have to be like him, the son of man who came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

- Are we able to determine the place and/or time in which the events mentioned occur?

To determine time or place this passage needs to be looked in conjunction with what happened before in the chapter. Mark 10: 32 states that they are on the road going up to Jerusalem and for the third time Jesus tells the disciples that they are on their way to Jerusalem and about his upcoming betrayal, once they get there, he will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes who will hand him over to the gentiles and that he is going to suffer and die and rise after 3 days. And it is arising out of this that the brothers come to Jesus and make their request.

So, we don't know time as in time of day but we do know that they are on their way to Jerusalem so that he can be betrayed. The time of his death and resurrection is drawing neigh.

- Who is mentioned or referred to? Are they mentioned by name, by the group they belong to, by their circumstances or behavior, etc.?

The disciples James and John are referred to by name and as sons of Zebedee as they go to Jesus to make their request.

Jesus is referred to as "Teacher" by James and John and his name is explicitly named in the passage as he calls the disciples. He is also referred to as the Son of Man who came to give his life for the ransom of many.

The rest of the 12 disciples are referred to as the 10 who are angry when they hear about the request that James and John made to Jesus.

- Does anyone speak? If so, to whom, and what do they say?

James and John speak to Jesus. They tell him that they want him to give them whatever they ask for and then they ask to be seated at his right and his left in his glory in response to his question.

Jesus speaks responding to their statement that they want him to do for them whatever they ask of him, asking what it is that they want him to do. In response to their request to be at the right and left of him in his glory Jesus tells them that they don't understand what they are asking for. He then asks them whether they drink the cup that he drinks or the baptism that he is baptized with.

The brothers respond to Jesus that they can

Jesus then tells them that they shall do so however it is not he that determines who will have those seats and only those for whom those seats are prepared can have them.

We are then told that the 10 were angry with James and John but we don't get any of their discussion.

Jesus then speaks. He calls the disciples and teaches them that in the gentile world the rulers lord it over the people, they exercise dominion over them but it must not be so among them. Among them whoever wishes to be great must be a servant. If they want to be first, they must be the slave to all. He then finishes his statement by saying that this is because the Son of Man came to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

- Are there any Scriptures quoted, cited, or referred to? Are they from the New Testament or Old Testament? If so, which ones and why?

What stood out to me were two Old Testament allusions:

There is the allusion to the suffering servant of Isaiah 53:5-6, 10 that fits with Jesus' description of what he is going to go through in this passage and in the fact that he came to give his life as a ransom for many.

There is also an allusion to Daniel 7:13 where Daniel talks of seeing one like a son of man who came with the clouds of heaven and went before and the Ancient of Days and who was given an everlasting dominion and kingship. Jesus, the Son of Man as HE called himself and Son of God, the Messiah is who Daniel speaking about.

The commentaries mentioned several other allusions but before this week's reading, I was unaware of those and so they would not form be part of my observations though they could be used later in the exegetical process.

Interpretation:

- Is there any special social, cultural, historical, and/or religious information that is being referred to/mentioned and that needs to be understood to understand the context? *If you use any information from the CBSB or any of your other course textbooks, make sure to footnote the material properly.*

1. The time of Jesus, the Roman empire it was a very strong honor and shame-based society. So, it was important to establish one's social status in society and this was what the brothers were seeking to do with their request.¹ I would also mention that this was also why when check Mark 9:32 the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest.

2. Judaism and the disciples are expecting a royal messiah like that of king David who would defeat the Romans and re-establish the kingdom of Israel.

3. The disciples did not understand that the messiah would die and after the third day be resurrected. For them as Jews their understanding was that the messiah was going to bring an

¹ Mark L. Strauss, *Mark*, ed. Clinton E. Arnold, ZECNT (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2014), 408.

eternal kingdom of justice and righteousness and resurrection w that happened at the end of time so the idea that this one person would be resurrected before that time was an idea that they just did not understand.²

4. Though Jesus had prior to this passage 3 times told them what was to happen to them and had been teaching them about what it meant to be his disciples they didn't really understand what he was saying to them.

5. To sit at the right hand is a place of honor that is usually given to the son and heir or to a chief advisor and the left side for them would have been the next highest honor.³ Witherington states that the seats to the right and left of the host are the main seats of honor at a banquet.⁴ So, this is the kind of honor that James and John were asking for.

- Your Summary:

- *In your own words*, summarize in two paragraphs/ten sentences what is being presented and/or taught in the passage. Summary of two paragraphs/ten sentences:

There are 2 things happening in this passage Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem to face crucifixion. Though he had been trying to tell them previously what was going to happen to him and what it meant to be his disciple the disciples didn't get it and James and John ask to have the

² Strauss, 408.

³ Strauss, 454.

⁴ Ben Witherington, *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001), 287.

seats of greatest honor beside him when he comes into his glory. He then seeks to explain to them further what it is that he is going to experience the cup of the wrath of God and the baptism of death and he asks if they think they can go through this. They say yes, they can, because they are expecting him to overcome the Romans and be the triumphant king that rules in Jerusalem. Jesus then states that they too shall drink the cup of suffering and death. The other disciples get upset when they hear about the request that the brothers had made. In verse 45 Jesus explains that he is going through all of this to be a ransom for many.

The other thing that happens in this passage is that Jesus teaches the disciples about what discipleship and leadership means in the kingdom of God. It is the opposite of what happens outside the kingdom of God. A leader in the kingdom of God is a servant to those that he leads, a slave of all. What you have here is the juxtaposition of the servant leadership of Jesus and the disciples seeking to show their importance and seeking honor for themselves.

- Then, in one concise statement or sentence, state, ***in your own words***, the main thrust or point of what the passage is teaching or presenting. What is the main thrust of the message/teaching/narrative to the original audience in their context?

Jesus, the Son of Man, who God would give all authority and dominion, came to serve and give his life as a substitute for many suffering the wrath of God and death on our behalf and he expects us as his disciples and leaders, not to be like the disciples seeking honor, but to be as he was, servants of those we serve.

Application(s):

1. Impact on/Importance to Believers, Unbelievers, and Me: (What is the importance/significance of these events to people today? What applications might we make to our own lives, such as what we believe, how we treat others, what we do, etc.? In other words, how should knowing what is in this passage then change us now?)
 - A. Believers: (What does this passage teach a new Christian, a mature believer, etc. about who God is, what He has done, what He is going to do, etc.? Is there a promise to be relied upon, a truth to be known and trusted, a command to be obeyed, etc.?)

This passage teaches Christians that the Son of Man, the Messiah came to earth so that He could give his life as a ransom for many. That he was the true suffering servant that would undergo the wrath of God and death for us that we would not have to experience that wrath and death. That He was also acting out of obedience to The Father so he wasn't the one who would determine who got the places of honor beside Him in his glory.

But since His life was given as a ransom we are assured that once we are following him and are in the kingdom of God we have been saved from experiencing that wrath and death as He has taken it for us.

As part of the kingdom, we need to be obedient to Him and what he has said in this passage is that we are not to lord it over others but rather we are to serve all others.

- B. Unbelievers: (What does this passage teach someone who has not yet trusted Christ?)

For someone who has not yet come to know Christ this passage teaches that there is Jesus the Son of Man, the Messiah, came to be a ransom for them so that they don't have to face the wrath of God and eternal death that they deserve, that we all deserve for our sins. But He came to do it on our behalf so we can be spared that, saved.

- C. Me: (What does this passage teach me about God, His ways, and His actions in the past, present, and future? How does this instruct and/or challenge me?)

This passage reminds me of what Jesus did for me, giving His life as a ransom for me, and it reminds me to be grateful. It teaches me though a more on the reality of what he went through in terms of the meaning of the “cup” and the “baptism”. It also teaches me more about the kind of leader that He wants and expects me to be, a servant leader. The idea of being a servant leader is not new but it makes one reflect on it afresh and in light of what He went through for me. It challenges me however to really be this way when I know some members of the ministry, who one expected would know better, are very difficult in a variety of ways. I want to learn more about the cup and the baptism as described in this passage.

2. Teaching/Sharing:

- A. What essential elements would you want to include when teaching or sharing what you have learned from this text with those in your family, your friends, and/or those in your home church?

The cultural and historical and religious context so that they would better understand what was happening in that context and compare it to what’s happening in our context for example the honor and shame culture and the need of many to show their status in society then and now, both of which sound so familiar here in Jamaica. But yet just as it did then Jesus expects us to be counter cultural and serve those we lead, and one another.

- B. Are there any parts of it that might require special explanation to help those you share this with understand what you are talking about?

I would want to have them read not just this passage but the chapter so that they could better understand what was going on including the fact that Jesus had just told his disciples for the third time about his coming death and resurrection. That was the genesis of the conversation with James and John.

- C. Are there any parts of it that might be especially challenging or disturbing to some of those with whom you might share this?

I think some might be challenged by the idea of servanthood and what that means for a leader. It is countercultural to what many see around them in normal Jamaican life

Also, if your reading has raised any questions in your mind, if you have insights or ideas that you would like to share, or if there are some things mentioned that you would like to explore in greater detail, please include those within your summary.