

- I) V30-32 INTRO: Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee and He did not want
 - a) AS WE BEGIN: Jesus has now entered into the *last six months* of ministry with His disciples
 - 1) HE NOW: Begins to spend *less* time with the multitudes, and *more* time with them
 - 2) HERE: He gives them further instruction concerning His Kingdom, and His upcoming death

- II) BACKGROUND: Jesus has just delivered a young boy from demon possession (V14-29)
 - a) AFTER HE DID THAT: He left the northern border area and traveled south
 - 1) WHY: At this time His intention is to minister to His disciples *without interruption*

- III) V31 FOR: He *taught* His disciples and said to them The Son of Man is being delivered into the
 - a) He has already begun preparing them for this, but they have not yet understood
 - 1) Mk 8:31-32 He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. But *they did not understand* this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

- IV) KEY: What He has to say is of utmost importance and He greatly desires them to understand
 - a) The thought of Him being betrayed and dying is simply something they do not want to hear
 - 1) Lu 9:44 *Let these sayings sink down into your ears:* for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.
 - 2) POINT: Some things do not require intense concentration or obedience: but that which concerns my sufferings and death are of utmost importance and this you must definitely understand

- V) V31 IN REMINDING HIM OF HIS UPCOMING DEATH: He shares three things with them
 - a) FIRST: The Son of Man is *about to be* delivered into the hands of men (by Judas)
 - b) SECOND: They will kill Him: 1 Co 15:3 Christ *died* for our sins according to the Scriptures
 - c) THIRD: He will be raised up on the third day
 - 1) 1 Co 15:14-17 If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

- VI) V32 THEIR RESPONSE: But they did not understand this saying and *were afraid to ask Him*
 - a) WHY THIS RESPONSE: They had just been rebuked (V19) and didn't want to be again!
 - 1) ALSO: Mt 17:23 The disciples were filled with *grief*
 - 2) Lu 9:45 They did not understand what this meant. It was *hidden (concealed) from them*, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.
 - 3) Mk 9:9-10 Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had *risen from the dead*. So they kept this word to themselves, *questioning* what the rising from the dead meant.

- VII) INTERESTING: Their sorrow, though understandable is really an expression of unbelief
 - a) Jn 14:28-29 You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' *If you loved me, you would be glad* that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen *you will believe*.

- VIII) V33-34 THEN: He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them *What was it*
 - a) Jesus had just stated that He was going to be betrayed and killed: How did they react?

- I) FACT: They had disputed among themselves, *who should be the greatest* (Larger, elder, stronger)
 - a) KEY: They should have been discussing this, not who is the greatest in the Kingdom!
 - 1) This is selfish ambition, and in the church it engenders fleshly tactics
 - 2) NOTICE Mk 10:35-37

- II) FACT: This desire for preeminence plagued them until the very end
 - a) Lu 22:24 (At the Passover supper) There was also rivalry among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest

- III) ON THAT NIGHT: This may very well have provoked Jesus to wash their feet
 - a) Jn 13:13-15 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

- IV) V35 AND: He sat down called the twelve, and said to them, If any man desire to be *first*, the same
 - a) THE KEY TO GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM: Is having the heart of a servant
 - 1) Jesus modeled this before His men
 - 2) Lu 22:27 Who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

- V) GREATNESS IN GOD'S KINGDOM: Is determined by a different standard
 - a) KEY: It is the result of caring more for others and placing their needs in a higher priority
 - 1) Phil 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.
 - 2) Ro 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another

- VI) JESUS GAVE AN INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO THIS ATTITUDE OF THE HEART
 - a) Lu 14:7-11 He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - b) The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but how many men he serves

- VII) V36-37 JESUS: Took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in
 - a) LITTLE CHILD: A *toddler*, though the word can also be used to describe an infant
 - 1) Tenderly, Jesus scoops up a small child and holds him in His arms

- VIII) V37 HE WHO: *Receives* one of these little children in My name *receives* Me
 - a) AS HE HOLDS HIM IN HIS ARMS: He begins to teach His disciples a tremendous lesson
 - 1) When we are sent out with the message of the gospel, we represent *Him* to the world

- IX) THE NON-BELIEVING WORLD: Can have different reactions to our *message* and to *us*
 - a) SADLY: It can reject what it is hearing and can reject us
 - l) NOT ALL: Respond well to the gospel message, as wonderful as it is

a) Mt 10:34-36 Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to `set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and `a man's enemies will be those of his *own* household.'

b) Jn 16:2-3 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

- II) ONE MORE THING: Notice that Jesus is holding a toddler while He gives this teaching
 - a) HIS POINT: We are to be as trusting of Him as this little child is, resting in His arms
 - 1) Dt 30:20 Love the LORD your God... obey His voice, and... cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days
 - 2) This peaceful and dependent relationship will keep us secure as we serve Him
- III) V38-41 NOW: John answered Him saying Teacher we saw someone who does not follow
 - a) John feels it necessary to update Jesus on a certain situation they had dealt with
 - 1) There was a certain individual using the name of Jesus as he cast out demons
 - 2) This man was not part of the people following Jesus and John was concerned
- IV) THIS: Is a very practical response to what Jesus has just taught about special privileges
 - a) It relates to authority, and how it is used in the kingdom of God
 - 1) In light of what You have said, was our reaction proper under the circumstances?
- V) REMEMBER: John and the other apostles had a very special relationship with Jesus
 - a) They were being mentored by the Lord, and were very protective of that relationship
 - 1) Not only was John one of the twelve, he also was one of the three closest disciples
- VI) NOTICE: This man is unnamed, but it is obvious he knew something of Jesus and His power
 - a) He may have been one of John the Baptist's disciples who had come to faith in Jesus
 - 1) He may be someone who had seen Jesus perform a deliverance and copied Him
 - 2) THEIR RESPONSE: They forbade him from casting out demons
- VII) KEY: This revealed that they did not understand Jesus, nor the heart of ministry
 - a) Ministers are not to compete, but encourage one another to succeed against a mutual enemy
 - 1) This man obviously had placed faith in Jesus, and was performing works in His name
 - 2) THEIR MISTAKE: They presumptuously *spoke for Jesus* without His direction
 - 3) Pr 18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.
- VIII) THE SAD FACT WAS: The disciples were protecting their positions, not Jesus' ministry
 - a) They did not appreciate the fact that this man was having success
- IX) V39-40 BUT JESUS SAID: Do not forbid him for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon
 - a) In successfully casting out demons, he has demonstrated that He is one of my followers
 - 1) WHY: Because if he were not with Me, he would be unsuccessful when he tries to do a work abroad
 - 2) Mt 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad
- I) INCIDENTALLY: This is a call for the disciples to pursue unity with others outside of their group
 - a) This serves to prepare them for the reality that there is room enough for all in His church

- 1) EXCLUSIVIST THINKING: Is strictly forbidden
 - 2) 1 Co 12:13-14 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.
- II) V41 FOR: Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink *in My name* because you *belong to Christ*
- a) POINT: Any small service done to any of His people results in a reward
 - 1) KEY: They do not go to heaven because of the work, but work because they know Jesus
 - 2) It illustrates the point He had earlier made (V35)