



WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME
MARK 9:30-41

Dark Days Ahead, vv. 30-32

LUKE 9:51

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

ISAIAH 53:4-10

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief...*

MARK 14:21

²¹ “For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

A Jarring Juxtaposition; vv. 33-34

ISAIAH 2:17

¹⁷ And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

Pride is the craving for undue exaltation, and is the beginning of all sin.

A Culturally Repugnant Message; v. 35

The disciples' culture—like all cultures—was consumed with status and standing;

LUKE 20:46

⁴⁶ “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and *the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts...*”

LUKE 14:8

⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him.

“How can a man be happy when he has to serve someone?” —Plato, *Gorgias*

All of God's saving and sanctifying work is designed to humble us, so that He may save us, and at the proper time, exalt us.

MARK 8:34

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

MARK 10:13-15

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, *whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.*"

"Servant of all";

LUKE 22:27

²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

JAMES 4:6

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

What do we do with our desire for exaltation?;

1 PETER 5:6

⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.*

JAMES 4:10

¹⁰ *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

The biblical pattern of redeeming our desires;

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

²² ...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and *is corrupt through deceitful desires,* ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, *created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Humanities' *felt needs*, and how they are all met in God

PSALM 37:4

⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

To feel joy	<p>NEHEMIAH 8:10 ¹⁰ "...do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." PSALM 51:12 ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation...</p>
To feel a sense of life-purpose	<p>PSALM 57:2 ² I cry out to God Most High, to God <i>who fulfills his purpose for me.</i> JEREMIAH 29:11 (in context) ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.</p>
To feel loved	<p>ROMANS 5:8 ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.</p>
To feel secure/safe	<p>PSALM 46:1-3 ¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.</p>
To achieve "rest"	<p>MATTHEW 11:28 ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and <i>I will give you rest.</i></p>
To feel a sense of belonging/genuine community	<p>ROMANS 12:4-5 ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. EPHESIANS 3:6 ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.</p>
To feel a sense of worth/value	<p>1 PETER 2:9 ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.</p>
To feel a deep sense of identity	<p>GALATIANS 2:20 ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.</p>
To feel wanted/desired	<p>EPHESIANS 1:4-5 ⁴ ...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ...</p>
To feel accepted/welcomed	<p>ROMANS 15:7 ⁷ Therefore welcome one another <i>as Christ has welcomed you</i>, for the glory of God. JOHN 6:37 ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and <i>whoever comes to me I will never cast out.</i></p>
To be exalted/celebrated	<p>ZEPHANIAH 3:17 ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; <i>he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.</i></p>

An Object Lesson from the Master; vv. 36-37

The apostles above all must learn this lesson;

EPHESIANS 2:19–20

¹⁹ ...you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...*

A Light Begins to Dawn; vv. 38-39

God will use the apostles to define the parameters of the Kingdom of God, but not yet;

MATTHEW 16:19

¹⁹ "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

A Kingdom United; v. 40

There are only two kingdoms;

MATTHEW 12:30

³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

The saints of God will one day be liberated from our crippling self-focus;

1 CORINTHIANS 12:24–26

²⁴ ...But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; *if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

Astoundingly Gracious Rewards; v. 41

MATTHEW 10:40–42

⁴⁰ "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ *The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.* ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, *truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*"