

Follow Me: Week 4 "Picking Up What Jesus is Throwing Down" - Pastor Jeremy

Sermon Notes: April 2, 2023

Text: Luke 19:41-44, Mark 8:31-35, 10:32-37, 46-52, Mark 11:8-10

Introduction

People are amazing! There's never a shortage of "Shaking My Head" (SMH!) moments in our world – with social media, you can get lost for hours watching people do things that make you shake your head in both wonderment & disbelief. Wonder at how creative humanity can be and disbelief at how dumb we can be, all at the same time. In today's message we'll see how what many thought at the time could be Jesus' greatest moment was actually a series of SMH moments as he shook his head in amazement at the people around him and ask ourselves, how can we keep Jesus from shaking his head at us!

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." Jesus, Mark 8:34

Every INVITATION of Jesus to follow comes with a CONFRONTATION, the decision whether we'll take him up on it or not.

Mark 11:8-10: While the crowds understood who Jesus was, they didn't understand the implications on their lives.

- They rightly believed he was coming to LIFT people UP but didn't understand that first he have to LAY himself DOWN.
- They didn't understand that to follow him, they would have to do the same.
- Following Jesus is not just about believing who he is, but also following what he does.

Luke 19:41-44 - they celebrated the KING who would give them what they want, but following is first about what you give up.

Mark 10:31-37, 43-45

- Selfish ambition makes us blind and insensitive to the heart & mission of Jesus
- Positions of prominence & power, asking to be seen
- Following Jesus isn't about PERSONAL GAIN but KINGDOM GROWTH

Mark 10:46-52

- Self-righteousness is when we think we deserve prominence or preference because we see Jesus more clearly or follow him more closely
- How to grow in extending love & mercy to others: be constantly aware of how much you need the love & mercy of Jesus yourself.
- The crowd did spiritually what they would never have dreamed of doing physically (Leviticus 19:14, 27:18) in wanting to be close to Jesus, they kept someone away who needed Jesus.

Are we picking up what Jesus is laying down?

- Instead of asking to be seen, are we asking Jesus to see?
- Instead of granting us a position, are we asking God to change our person?
- Are we following Jesus and helping others follow Jesus too?



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

What was the last thing you can remember seeing someone do that made you facepalm and shake your head in disbelief in how dumb they just were? Bonus points if your story is about something you did!!

Study & Discussion:

1) The disciples and followers of Jesus who accepted his invitation to follow him had no idea where the road would lead or where the journey has taken them. What is one way that God has used you, or one thing you became involved in serving in that you would never have dreamed you would be doing?

Read Mark 8:31-35, Mark 10:32-39, 45, Mark 10:46-52

2) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

3) Gut punch! Pastor Jeremy said "Selfish ambition makes us blind and insensitive to the heart & mission of Jesus." In what ways have you seen this to be true? What can we do to curb this in our personal lives, and together, as a corporate church?

4) How has being aware of how much you need the love & mercy of Jesus yourself helped you extend love and mercy to someone else? Can you think of a specific time you experienced this to be true?

5) In what ways can the "church" in general, or even our church specifically, keep from being like the crowd who kept people who need Jesus from getting to him? How can we follow Jesus and help others follow Jesus too?

Prayer:

