

JESUS' LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY

Mark 8:31 – 10:52

Key Verse 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Through the third lesson, we learn about Jesus' philosophy of life. Jesus' authority came from His philosophy of life, namely His humility and His serving and devoted life. This does not look like an empowered life. But Jesus' life as a servant brought about something great in the lives of many people and his followers. The first Christians conquered the Roman Empire, not by military force, but by imitating Jesus' humility, servanthood and devotion. Let us get to know the spiritual authority of Jesus through his humble, serving and devoted life and with his authority do something wonderful in the lives of many young people in this generation.

1. All things are possible to him who believes! (8:31-9:50)

Let us look at 8:34,35: "Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." Jesus taught his disciples to follow: 1) To follow Jesus means to deny oneself. First of all, one must deny oneself against laziness, pettiness and sin. 2) Following Jesus means to take up the cross of God's mission. Some say that they cannot take up the cross of God's mission because they have to carry the cross of school and work. Most of them have a priority problem that they are too busy with shallow work. Others say that because of God's mission, they could not carry the cross of school, study, work and raising children. That is not okay either. With the wisdom of God, we can carry all the crosses for the glory of God by following Jesus. A life of carrying all crosses by following Jesus is a blessed life.

Let us look at 8:37. Some are ashamed because of Jesus and because of the words of Jesus. They do not want to bring their neighbors to the church. They want to live in conformity with the majority. In a crucial moment, they say, "I don't know Jesus. I do not know the servant of God. I don't know the church of Jesus. I don't know what you are talking about." But then Jesus will also be ashamed of them when he returns in glory. Then he will also say about such characterless Christians, "I don't know you." But God does not work through Christians who live conformably and do everything right on the outside, but through those who go against the tide and are not ashamed.

In my youth, I often experienced that some 2nd generation missionaries were ashamed of their church or even their parents. They were ashamed of the "UBF style". They cursed themselves that they were born as 2nd generation missionaries as children of missionaries and UBF shepherds. They looked elsewhere to find something better, e.g. in a secular career or in another church or in theological studies. They tried to imitate other congregations by, like Esau, not thinking highly of their own birthright. But God helped me not to be ashamed of my identity as a 2nd generation missionary or my parents or my church. God taught me with Mark 8:34 to deny myself, to take up the cross of mission and to follow the way of Jesus and the counsel of God as a 2nd generation missionary according to the spiritual heritage of UBF with humble obedience and determination even in self-denial and suffering. God blessed me to establish the first 2nd generation missionary house church in Europe with an outstanding woman of faith at the age of 22. God blessed me that my children, all born during my studies, are the first 3rd generation missionaries in Europe. My life was and is unusual in the eyes of

worldly people. Because of the grace of God, I was ready to lose my life. But I was allowed to gain it. I thank God that I can experience God's mighty work in the next generation especially in the time of persecution. God also helped me a lot in my life of faith.

When Jesus returned with his disciples from the Mount of Transfiguration, they again experienced the dark spiritual situation of that time. A man had brought his son who was possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit made his son become rigid, gnash his teeth and foam at the mouth. Perhaps it was epilepsy. But no one could help him. Jesus' disciples had also tried to heal him but had not been able to. Now they were arguing fiercely with the Pharisees, and a large crowd was watching. This scene shows us the spiritual need and the helplessness of the people, who are like people without (believing) shepherds.

How did Jesus respond to this situation? Let us read 9:19: "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." Jesus sighed deeply because of the unbelief of that generation. He sighed deeply because of the unbelief of the father, who was paralyzed in helplessness and therefore could not help his child. He groaned because of the unbelief of the disciples who tried with confidence but became downcast. Jesus sighed because of the unbelief of the religious leaders who had no sense of responsibility and no interest in the healing of the boy, but only wanted to criticize the work of Jesus. Jesus saw the fundamental problem in their unbelief, not in the obsession of a boy. Unbelief made a whole generation helpless and desperate.

This is also true for our time. We live in the most advanced time. Our technical and medical knowledge is fantastic. Never before have people had such good conditions. In addition, there is the Internet revolution. All knowledge (but also sin) is just a mouse click away. If we have a problem, we can ask Dr. Google. Actually, this may be the problem, because Dr. Google can't help us either. People are helpless in the face of sin and addiction, despite the most advanced technology. Dr. Google is not the truth. But Jesus' word is the truth.

The unbelief of a generation was really exasperating. But Jesus did not despair but dealt with the problem step by step: Jesus first helped

the father to have healthy faith. Let's look at 9:23: "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." "If you can..." The father had if-faith. If-faith says, "Some things are possible, some things are impossible." But with if-faith we will not experience the authority of God. We will experience the authority of Jesus through faith, that all things are possible to him who believes.

The father immediately repented of his if-faith, which depended on the outwardly visible conditions: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" The father could not do much. But what is decisive is that he came to Jesus with his unbelief. He did not rationalize, he did not find excuses to justify his unbelief, but he accepted the problem of his unbelief and came to Jesus asking him to help him overcome his unbelief. How can unbelief be overcome? Unbelief cannot be overcome by arguments and evidence or knowledge, but only by faith. "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" is a conscious decision to believe and obey the word of Jesus more than one's own thoughts, knowledge and all previous experiences. Above all, one's own experiences are a great obstacle. People believe their experiences or their own projections based on their experiences more than the word of Jesus.

Next, Jesus cast out the evil spirit and returned the Son to the Father. Through this passage, we realize that Jesus overcame the unbelief and helplessness of a generation and experienced God's miraculous working in a person's life, not by improving conditions, but by planting faith in people's hearts: "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Let us also experience the power of God in this generation by living with healthy faith and by planting healthy faith.

Later, the disciples asked Jesus why they had not been able to cast him out. They wanted to learn a trick or a new method from Jesus. But Jesus had no trick or method., Read verse 9:29: "He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer." This verse teaches us that Jesus' authority to deliver a boy from his evil spirit came from his humble prayer to God in obedience to God's counsel. Instead of remaining helpless, we may humbly come to God in prayer and through repentance of our unbelief, or by planting faith, experience salvation for ourselves, our sheep and children.

2. Jesus' life of service as a ransom for many (10:1-52).

Let us look at 10:17-27. This is the famous story of the rich young man. He was very young. Yet he was already rich. The fact that he came to Jesus shows that he had a focused and striving lifestyle. This mature young man was a capable man who was not only successful and rich, but also had always kept the commandments of God. He was a man of great possibilities. Jesus became fond of this young man. Jesus invited him to follow him and be his disciple: "Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (10:21) Jesus did not say to everyone, "Follow me!" This is really a great grace of God that Jesus, the Son of God, loved this outstanding young man and invited him to follow Him. The rich young man could have been the 13th disciple of Jesus and perhaps written his own gospel and become a great apostle and leader in history like Apostle Peter. He was a serious threat to Peter's position as top disciple. But unfortunately, his face darkened as a result. He had many goods. Above all, he did not want to sell his expensive cell phone. He also wanted to have eternal life, but in his own way and according to his possibilities. He finally walked away sadly. He missed the opportunity of a lifetime. Jesus said that it is so hard for those who struggle with their own purpose and desire to be saved and enter the kingdom of God. They are like camels before the eye of a needle or the monkey caught on a tree because of his greed. Those who want to advance must first lay down the ballast of the world and follow Jesus.

Especially as young people, we may set a clear priority to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness by following Jesus. Jesus says to young people, "Go, sell your cell phone, your computer games, your youthful desires, and you will have a treasure in heaven, and come and follow me!" Jesus invites young people, not to make them poor, but to give them everything because he loves them. A young man was born as a doctor's son. But he decided to give up his cell phone and the pleasures of sin during his teenage years. Instead, he engaged in Deep Work through Bible study and by studying for school and learning to follow Jesus. This looked boring on the outside. But it was very productive. So he could lay the good spiritual and also practical foundation for his life before his years

of studies. How can we help the capable and rich young men of this generation? Sometimes we think that we have nothing to give them. But we may love them as Jesus did, encouraging them and helping them to seek first the kingdom of God in their young years and to follow Jesus and lay the good foundation. It is important that they first gain the treasure in heaven. Then they can gain everything else according to Matthew 6:33.

Consider 10:35. The brothers John and James came to Jesus wanting to claim for themselves the best places in Jesus' kingdom. Matthew's Gospel reported that they sent their mother to Jesus with this request. They had not consulted with Peter beforehand. For example, they could have let Peter have at least one seat and shared the other seat. But they wanted to go over Peter's head and claim both places for themselves. The inconsiderate behavior of John and James threatened to destroy the vessel among the disciples. Jesus taught them the example of the Son of Man. Let's look at 10:42-44: "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." Jesus taught his disciples that if they wanted to be great, they should humble themselves and be a servant to all. In Jesus they could see the best example of this.

Let us read 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus is the Son of God. He was also an overachiever with a high school diploma grade of 1.0, who discussed the Word of God with the scribes at the age of 12, so that they were astonished. But Jesus' life was not a life to be served based on his ability. His life was a life to serve others. He served his disciples who were very low, deficient, and very slow learners. It was very frustrating to teach them anything. But he taught them the way of discipleship with all patience and humility without giving up until they became shepherds for God's flock of sheep. He served a proud Pharisee Professor Nikodemus who always knew everything better or pretended not to understand anything. He ministered to a rebellious and sharp-tongued Samaritan woman until she could start a new life. Jesus ministered to all kinds of disgusting and smelly sick people

and sinners. Jesus even served the children. Finally, the Son of Man gave His life as a ransom for many. Jesus bore all the punishment and pain in our place on the Cross, so that we are ransomed from eternal damnation by His blood. Through Jesus' devoted life as a servant, Jesus served the work of disciple making and salvation with authority.

My father gave up his doctorate and career and devoted his life completely to studying the Bible with the students on campus. My parents shared common life with various co-workers and students in their apartment, giving them the best rooms and living in a dark and damp basement room themselves. Many were moved by their humility and devotion, so that they also made a lifetime decision to dedicate their lives to the world mission, just as they had done. Through their humble servanthood over the past 40 years, many young people among the students on campus and among the next generation have also been able to personally encounter Jesus and experience a transformation of life.

Through this text, I learn that Jesus' authority came from His life of service and giving. I was also able to experience this through the lives of my parents and many predecessors in the faith such as Mother Sarah Barry and Dr. Lee. Spiritual authority does not come from money, position and title or intellectual superiority, but from the serving and giving life of Jesus.

With the vision for the pioneering work at medical school and through obedience to God's guidance, I was allowed to complete the study of human medicine, become a specialist in ophthalmology, and also obtain the title of Medical Doctor. But more and more, I realize that I lacked the humility, servanthood and devotion of Jesus, so that I had no spiritual authority to serve sheep and co-workers. But here I can hear Jesus' voice: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." I decide to serve 12 students, co-workers and the next generation with Jesus' servanthood and life devotion and to experience God's work.

Today, we have learned Jesus' authority through His humility, serving life and life devotion. Jesus served his disciples, the rich young man and many people, teaching them the way of discipleship. Let us follow Jesus' example, serve the students and rich disciples of this

generation with Jesus' authority through one-to-one Bible study, and challenge the spiritual revival work in Europe and the M-Mission.