



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 28 September 2008

Released on Wednesday, September 24, 2008

"Serving Others"

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-28; Mark 10:32-45

MEMORY VERSE: "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28)

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 20:17-28

17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand that God's plan for all His children is that they serve others.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus came into the world for the purpose of serving others by taking their sins on Himself.
2. The truly great people in God's kingdom are those who care for others' needs rather than seek to be served themselves.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, make a flashcard reading "serve," and find a picture of a scene inside a restaurant.

For Telling the Lesson, you will need pictures showing Jesus walking with His disciples, a cross, James and John, a Bible-time woman, and Jesus talking to His disciples. Make a sign that says "important."

For Helping to Remember, take an assortment of colored construction paper so that each child may select his or her favorite. Provide crayons and safety scissors (blunt tip).

Review the "Teacher's Notes" below and make a copy of the word search for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Have you ever gone to a restaurant? (Show restaurant scene.) You know what happens in a restaurant. A waiter or waitress comes and serves the people at your table. So what does the word "serve" mean? (Display "serve" and leave in place.) The waiter or waitress finds out what food is needed at your table, and then he or she brings it, right? Serving is doing something that helps somebody else.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

This week's lesson takes place as Jesus and His disciples make the final trip to Jerusalem before the crucifixion (A.D. 30). On this final trip, Jesus took the opportunity to teach His disciples about service to others. Jesus said that He came into the world not to be served but to serve, not "to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Matt. 20:28). First John 4:10 says the Father sent the Son, who had no sin of His own, for the purpose of making atonement for the sins of others. When He was on this earth, Jesus' constant objective seemed to be "What can I do today that will benefit these dear creatures of Mine?" And He would have His followers have the same mindset.

On Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem, He traveled through the region called Perea with His disciples. This region is referred to in the Bible as the land "beyond Jordan". During this final journey, He told His closest followers what would happen when they arrived in Jerusalem. His selfless service would end with Him being mistreated and crucified. Yet He pressed on, knowing His own death would result in eternal life for countless others.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

Don't take for granted that your students understand what you are saying – be careful to explain your words. If you think they know what something means, check to be sure!! You will encounter words or phrases throughout the lesson that will need to be explained. Here is a list to use as a starting point (add any others that you think need to be defined):

betray, condemn, mock, scourge, crucify, right hand, left hand, drink of the cup, baptized with the baptism, indignation, exercise dominion, exercise authority, minister, ministered unto, ransom.

Avoid using "crucify" without making sure your students understand it. It is likely you will also need to explain briefly the purpose of a cross. Long ago Roman soldiers took people who had done very wrong things and hung them on crosses to die. Jesus died on a cross, but He had done nothing wrong. He was dying for us.

Make sure the students understand what a servant is. After discussing what Jesus taught about servanthood, ask the students for examples in their life, such as helping around the house or at church. See "Telling How to Live" for other examples.

TELLING THE LESSON:

This week's Bible lesson is about serving. This lesson will highlight for the boys and girls another aspect of the beautiful character of Jesus Christ - His continuous concern for the welfare of others.

Jesus' Last Trip to Jerusalem (Matthew 20:17-19)

Up, up, up toward the great city went Jesus and the twelve men who traveled everywhere with Him. (Show Jesus and the disciples walking.) Jesus had been walking here and there, visiting different towns and villages. He would teach about God and His kingdom in one area. Then He would go to another place. But now He was going back to the biggest city of all, Jerusalem.

Crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. But somewhere along the road going up to Jerusalem Jesus and the twelve men went off by themselves so that He could talk just with them. He had something important to tell His friends. (Display "important," and leave the sign in place.) And it was something sad.

You see, Jesus knew what would happen when they got to Jerusalem. He told them somebody would turn Him over to the leaders in the temple. Those leaders were men who did not like Him or His teaching. Those leaders were men who had been looking for some way to get rid of Jesus. They wanted to find some way to kill Him.

"The leaders will say that I must not live any longer," Jesus said. "Then they will turn Me over to the cruel men who have taken over our country. They will make fun of Me and whip Me and nail Me to a cross to die." (Show cross.) What sad news for Jesus' friends to hear.

He did not stop there, though. He said one more thing: "After three days I will rise again." Yes, Jesus would die, but He wanted them to know He would live again.

Jesus kept going up the road to Jerusalem. He knew bad things were going to happen to Him there. But Jesus was not thinking about keeping Himself safe. He was thinking of others, and He was going to do what others needed. He was thinking about you and me and how we needed our sins taken away. He was willing even to die to do that for us.

Jesus was thinking of others, and He did what others needed. That is just the way Jesus is.

The Bible does not say what Jesus' friends thought just then about what He told them. It does say that soon they were thinking about something else.

A mother's request (Matthew 20:20-24)

Two of Jesus' friends were James and John. (Show James and John.) They had been thinking about themselves, and now they wanted Jesus to do something for them.

In those days, if you wanted someone important to do something for you, it was more polite to let someone else do the asking. So James and John brought along their mother. (Show mother.)

She bowed in front of Jesus and let Him know she wanted to ask for something.

"What is it you want?" Jesus asked.

She said, "When You become king, please let my two sons sit on thrones, one on each side of You."

Now those were important places. To sit at the side of a king meant that the king thought you were important. If James and John sat in those places, everyone would think Jesus had put them there because they were extra special. I am afraid James and John were not thinking of the others at all. They were thinking only of themselves and what they wanted.

Jesus listened, but He said He was not the one to decide who would sit in those seats. God the Father did that.

Well, as soon as the other ten disciples heard what James and John had done, they were very upset. They did not want James and John to have those places. They wanted to sit there themselves. You see, they were not thinking of helping others either.

Jesus' Teaching on Service (Matthew 20:25-28)

Jesus knew what was happening, and He called them all together. (Show Jesus talking to disciples.) He said something like this: "You know how it is with kings and other rulers. They make people do what they want. Everybody has to serve them. But with you it must be different. You all want to sit beside Me so that you can look important. But the ones who are really important among My people are the ones who think about what others need and serve them."

No, you do not have to sit beside a king to be important. (Point to "important.") Jesus said God's children are important because they help and serve others.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

So how might you help somebody with needs? Sometimes people need *things*, but not always. Sometimes they need a little help with the job they are doing. Sometimes they need to know how to find something. Sometimes they just need someone else to be friendly and smile. Sometimes they need to be invited to Sunday school. And sometimes they need to hear what a good friend Jesus is.

This week why not look for people who need the kind of help you can give? Ask Jesus to help you find people like that and serve them.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Show the children how to fold their construction paper in half lengthwise and evenly to form a greeting card. On the front have them print "Jesus Came to Serve" and draw a cross. On the inside they will print "I will serve too!" If time permits, help each cut scallops around his/her card for decoration. Suggest they show their cards to three people.

Have each student complete the word search, with key words from this week's lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28)

As soon as we know what some new words mean, we will know what this verse is telling us. "Son of man" was one of Jesus' favorite names for Himself. "Minister" in this verse does not mean a pastor or preacher. It means to help somebody by doing something that person needs. A "ransom" was the money paid to set another person free.

This verse is saying Jesus did not come into the world so that we would do something for Him. He came to do something for *us*. He paid to set us free from sin by giving His life on the cross.

CONCLUSION

Right before Jesus died, He called His disciples together to teach them a very important lesson on service. He made clear that they were all looking in the wrong direction for greatness. The truly important person, He said, is not the one who exercises authority over others. The

truly great person is the one who lives as a servant of others. The one God considers "great" is the one who sees his lifework as ministering to the needs of others.

And of course Jesus Himself was the outstanding model of such servanthood. He came into the world to serve.

Have we adopted serving the needs of others as our life ministry?

PRAYER

Father, we thank you for the lessons that Jesus taught. Forgive us when we are selfish and do not want to help others. Help us to following the example of Jesus and serve others. We pray in the name of Jesus, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "God Gives Power" and describes the coming of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost to help believers in their service to God. Read Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:1-17.

Lesson Summarized by:

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WORD SEARCH
Serving Others
(Matthew 20:17-28)

Find each of the following words.

JERUSALEM
SERVANT
JOHN
DISCIPLES

KINGDOM
REQUEST
OTHERS
GREAT

JAMES
RANSOM
JESUS
MINISTER

SERVING
MOTHER
IMPORTANT

S S E O I T N O M A D J E R U S A L E M S E N R
T O S M O D G N I K J S E M N E J E A M I N N E
R J D I E J N A G S N D A H E C E R O P S G P S
R J R M M T N N T N O O T N A T R O P M I R G A
E H P S D E I S I O T A N M S R E S S S C P S R
H R G S N V R S L N I S N E T R V J A M E S V E
T C E S R E E E L U D M R E E M U M E A S O R H
O N U E H R A L A T I A R Q I P J G R E A T A D
M S S T I A R P S N O M U N N T N A V R E S O C
E U O G R N J I M H E E I S I H E K S D S R A Q
P A S T J S A C J S S S P D T R O R A S M S E C
N I G I E O E S R T T R R T L R A J E U M H V S
P E R G M M M I S E V P P N S M R N K S J I E R
S H S L T A O D R S R N O R I A R P A E S T E O
T V V S H T J R O G O M E O J S E N M J E O P H
U J N E S S R E R V V S T V P R T T N T E J Q S

Solution to Word Search for 28 September 2008 - Serving Others (Matthew 20:17-28)

J E R U S A L E M
M O D G N I K
G
R N T N A T R O P M I
E I S
H V R S R J A M E S
T R E E E M
O E H R L Q I G R E A T
M S T A P U N N T N A V R E S
O N I E I H
S C S S O S
O S T T J U
M I E S
D R E
J