**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 23 – Dirty Words**

**Walking in the steps of Jesus w/ his disciples - Gospel of Mark.**

**Today, big change for Jesus and his disciples.**

**They are about to leave the area of Galilee.**

**Mark 9:30 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, 31 because he was teaching his disciples.**

**Passing thru Galilee on their way to Judea - stopping at home.**

**On a 1 day walk home – Jesus taught them 7 dirty words.**

**31b He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” 32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.**

**“Okay Jesus…” “What’s he mean?” “I don’t know - ask”**

**1 - Dirty Word – Death**

**I am going to be killed! They were still like - no way! You’re too powerful. You are the messiah – with you we will live forever!!**

**Reality- death is eminent. As you get older you realize it more and more. But for Jesus, his death our hope for life after death.**

**9:33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.**

**35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”**

**2 - Dirty Word – Servant**

**We read that and think, I want to be great – so I guess I need to be last and serve others – But don’t miss what Jesus is saying. He is saying who the greatest in the Kingdom is - JESUS is describing himself.**

**Jesus is above all things and made himself last of all and thru the cross became a servant of all.**

**You/we will never be the greatest! Jesus is the greatest in the kingdom.**

**But if we want to be great in his eyes - we can follow the greatest example. Be the last and serve others above yourself.**

**Gal 5:13 For you were called to freedom, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

**You want to be great in the eyes of God? Serve.**

**\*\* We are never more Christ-like than when we are serving, but we are never more anti-Christ than when we are expecting to be served.**

**The is about everyday life and your church life. Covid means we get to be creative with our serving – it doesn’t cancel it.**

**Mark 9:36 He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 37 “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”**

**Children in that culture were seen, not heard - last insignificant – completely reliant on others – usually looked down on. I think is literally about children and people in general.**

**3 - Dirty Word – Humility**

**You want to know me - want to come to me - consider yourself insignificant - You have to come to me with nothing to offer.**

**Likewise, in the same way to humbly welcome others.**

**Can you come in humility and welcome others in humility?**

**When we serve the least – we actually serving Jesus. (Matt 25)**

**38 “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” 39 “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us. 41 Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.**

**4 - Dirty Word – Unity**

**Those who are not against the true Jesus – the biblical Jesus – they may not be in your church, circle, denomination, camp, tribe, political position or party – you may not like how they do things – but they are with us – if they stand with and for me.**

**\*\*The biblical Jesus is the unifying factor**

**There are things to divide over – but if the essentials are held tight - you might not like the method, but if the message is the same – they are family in Christ.**

**Phi 1:27 let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ… standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel…**

**Eph 4:1 Lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.**

**3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.**

**\*\* To live a life worthy of the calling of Christ is to strive for - unity!**

**Ephesians 4:3 – Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit**

**Romans 12:18 - So far as it depends on you, live in peace and unity**

**Unity is not about avoiding doctrine or overlooking sin.**

**Unity is not uniformity, conformity, or the absence of individuality.**

**Unity actually defines what is essential and it in turn - gives other Christians the same grace God has given you.**

**Mark 9:42 “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.**

**This tells us how much Jesus loves people and wants no one miss his goodness & what happens if we cause them to miss it**

**\*\* One small act of selflessness can lead someone to see Jesus and likewise one small act of selfishness can cause someone to miss Jesus.**

**Our choices can affect the spiritual lives of those around us**

**1 Cor 9-10 talks about this a lot. 1 Cor 10:32 - Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God (includes non-Ch & Christians)**

**Christians are challenged to choose personal sacrifice over personal rights for the sake of others salvation. Take this to heart – people are watching! Don’t plant wild weeds, clear the brush!**

**5 - Dirty Word – self-denial**

**This means saying no to things that you like that might cause others to stumble – few things are as intensely talked about in scripture as this.**

**Sometimes we just choose to not do something for the sake of others who might not understand – that is called freedom.**

**43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. *(44)* 45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. *(46)* 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where “‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’**

**Aren’t you glad - Jesus is not suggesting you literally cut your hand off and gouge your eye out? But is actually harder…**

**Jesus is restating Mark 8:35 - to save our lives, we will lose them.**

**This is about making the hard decisions to cut out of our life things that are pulling us down, causing you to stumble, and sin.**

**People, places, possessions, and things. I don’t want to tell myself no – self-denial – that’s a dirty word – Hatchet ministry.**

**6 - Dirty Word – HELL**

**Jesus is talking about tripping people up on the way to hell.**

**“Thrown into hell” 3X – Gehenna - “Valley of Hinnom.” –**

**Once where human sacrifice to the idol Molech took place, now a burning trash heap. Graphic picture of the judged.**

**He describes it as a place 48 where “‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ \*\* What are the worms - maggots?**

**Perhaps a picture of the disgust of sin - the worm of remorse that eat at us and haunt our soul for eternity.**

**Hell is often a dirty word – Don’t talk about it – bring it up – mention it – speak of it as a place people will go.**

**But Jesus is making it clear – there is a hell – a fire that burns forever – where torment never ends, and maggots never stop.**

**To know Christ is to know to die to self, and to deny self – to walk humbly and ready to serve others without strings attached.**

**And the reward is great – the glory of the kingdom of heaven. To be called great by God – and know his goodness – and never know the sting of death! Do whatever it takes…!!**

**Mark 9:49 Everyone will be salted with fire.**

**The English word salary is from the Latin word for Salt**

**Salt was so valuable Romans solders where often paid in salt – then traded it for gold. Necessary for daily life – it meant life.**

**7 - Dirty Word – TRIAL**

**“Salted with Fire” - seasoned with trials – they make us better.**

**The fires purify our faith and expose those who are truly of the faith. We cannot grow without being seasoned with fire.**

**Mark 9:50 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other.” (so salty?)**

**7 words – Death, Servant, Humility, Unity, self-denial, Hell, Trials**

**He ends the evening with his disciples by wrapping them all up into one word – SALT. They are ingredients to the salty life.**

**Actually, those things are not dirty words – they are salty words. They make you salty - effective - & indispensable.**

**They stretch us – stress us – strengthen us – and ultimately salt us. They will make us salty – bringing life to others.**

**\*\* I want give you an opportunity to respond to Christ today…**