**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 26 – Déjà vu (Blindness)**

**In Mark - change from stumbling supporters to the dedicated followers.**

**The journey so far – Marks Judean ministry account is short.**

**Today a similar conversation that followed a similar reminder.**

**A déjà vu moment - French, meaning "almost seen"**

**Similar reminder - Jesus talks about His Death a Third Time**

**Mark 10:32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. 34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”**

**Jesus knowing clearly what was to happen, He is leading the way! But they were following afraid and confused.**

**\*\*\* Christmas is about Easter**

**Jesus was born to carry the cross. Make no mistake this was always the plan. He was clear on the mission – he knew what we needed…**

**1 Peter 1:20 He was chosen before the creation of the world…**

**Rev 13:8 - The Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.**

**Jesus led the way - making straight the way to the cross.**

**Similar conversation - Mark 10:35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” 36 And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”**

**This request is evidence that they were still unaware of the person and plan. They can’t stop thinking about political power - the church is still guilty of pursuing this.**

**38 Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” 39a And they said to him, “We are able.”**

**39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized…**

**He was prophesying = that they will taste his cup.**

**They will be persecuted, tortured, and abandoned. They may not understand it now – but they will.**

**40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.**

**42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.**

**2nd time he has talked about this with them. God grades greatness differently - There are no seat grabbers.**

**Jesus uses two words here:**

**43b …whoever would be great among you must be your servant,**

**Servant – (diakonos) deacon, waiter - same word for minister in the NT.**

**Someone willing to do prefer others above self - no glory.**

**44 …whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.**

**Slave – (doulos) without rights under another’s authority.**

**Someone willing to do the most menial lowly tasks imaginable.**

**\*\*\* Many want power and position without the patience and pain.**

**You don’t know what you’re asking… Jesus calls it - The cup and the baptism - He is referring to a cup of experience and the baptism of pain.**

**So many want the position without the experience.**

**They make a brand, social media page, and sell themselves.**

**But that is not how God chooses who he uses.**

**Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

**\*\*Ransomed by Jesus- from caught & enslaved to bought & exchanged**

**Jesus was walking to calvary – What a price!! The Blood of Jesus! Why would he…? His great love of us!**

**He took the judgment – we get the freedom. He takes the suffering we get the benefit. He says that is how you lead.**

**He had every right to be served, He is creator God! He was a Ransom, sacrificed price, a purchase. “Even the Son of Man” (even God the Messiah - are you better than God?)**

**\*\* To be a great leader is to drink the cup of pain and be baptized in suffering**

**Because it is at times filled with heartache. I trust the Lord.**

**He told them you don’t see it now… but you will.**

**A repeat miracle – Mark 10:46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

**49 And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” 50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”**

**52 And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith (in me) has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.**

**At first, they tried to chase him away – to go his own way - but he ended up a follower of the Way.**

**This is great picture of salvation**

**The Process from Spiritual Blindness to Sight**

**We are all born blind – (all have sinned – all – no exceptions - Romans 3:23)**

**Blind to our sin and the world around us –Like Bartimaeus –**

**We are all spiritually blind beggars looking for anything to give us direction. Seeking and calling out. (v.46)**

**We must believe who Jesus is – v.47 he called Jesus - “Son of David”**

**He called Jesus - The messiah = promised Savior - God in the flesh. His only hope. Jesus is God in the flesh – the savior.**

**We must come in humility – v.47 “have mercy on me”**

**Seeking only mercy - broken and humbled.**

**Psalm 51:17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

**That is the only way we can come to God.**

**We must recognize our need – v.48 - Crying out – louder and louder**

**Some think, “I don’t need Jesus, I’m good.” If you don’t know you’re sick, you’ll see the physician.**

**Without a true recognition of your need – you’ll never know.**

**Bartimaeus was convinced of his need and cried out even louder.**

**We must by faith see and receive Jesus v.52 Your faith – gave you sight.**

**Faith in Jesus – not faith in faith – or positive thinking.**

**Ephesians 2:8 - For it is by grace (God’s undeserved favor) you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.**

**The amazing thing about all this is that –**

**All of this is a work of God in a person by - the Holy Spirit.**

**1 Cor 12:3 No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.**

**We respond to this with following**

**v.52 he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.**

**What a contrast from last week’s rich young ruler.**

**When your eyes are truly opened – you can see no other way to walk. A profound change of direction. He is not a trial run.**

**v.50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.**

**He cast away his outer garment - clothes of a beggar – identified his place in life. Permission to beg. His primary possession. But he threw it off! A beggar no more!**

**It was representative of his old life – he left it behind and followed Jesus. Jesus was worth leaving it behind.**

**Hebrew 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.**

**Eph 4:22 – Throw off your former way of life, your old self…**

**What do you need to throw off – cast off?**

**When our eyes are opened to Jesus (not just a physical miracle), we can’t help but follow. To drop it all and follow.**

**Matt 20 – says there were two blind men. But mark only mentions one.**

**As apparently only one – followed Jesus.**

**People who are touched by God – and still walk away.**

**I once was blind – but now I see. In this story – someone told him Jesus was near. I am so glad for those who told me about Jesus. I was saved in April of 1983 – because my family came to church on Easter.**

* **Will you invite?**
* **What do you need to throw off?**
* **Do you recognize your need – are you ready by faith to see?**