



Bible Study
2014-2015

Heart of a Servant

The Gospel of Mark

LESSON 14 PART 2

“Groundhog Day” was a very popular comedy film made in 1993. The main character of the movie is an arrogant meteorologist who finds himself stuck in a twenty-four hour time loop during a much hated assignment on Groundhog Day. As the events of the day repeat themselves over and over, he begins to re-examine his life and priorities and make changes.

Being an outside observer of Peter’s life, I often wonder how delighted he would have been to relive certain days and make different choices with different outcomes. He may not have been so quick to tout his invincibility as Jesus’ sidekick with allegiance to the death. He surely would have stayed awake in the garden and prayed with more zeal than he knew he had. We could probably safely assume that this fisherman would not have pulled his sword out to lop off the ear of the high priest’s servant, nor run away immediately when Jesus was arrested. Then reflecting on his choice of comrades and conversation topics around a fire, Peter probably would have jumped at the chance to redo these particular twenty-four hours of his life.

Fear is a force to be reckoned with as a Christian. It can be a motivator for the good or a vehicle that pushes us to make decisions outside the will of God. As you look at Jesus, He is our fearless Savior. He could look in the face of the most heinous enemies and ask them questions that cut to the depths of their motivations. He could look into the eyes of His biggest betrayer and call him a friend. Though He stood beneath false accusations, listened to contradictory lies, and experienced the worst of injustices, He remained silent and unwavering. There was no fear of man, fear of failure, nor fear of consequences. We only have an intimate glimpse of His human apprehension when facing the weight of sin and separation that would come with drinking the cup of His Father’s fury. Nothing moved Him from the will of His Father.

May the same be said of us in our days ahead, even though we have times when we struggle with fear and apprehension. We have a high priest Who is more than familiar with our frailties. He embraced them, to redeem them, to conquer them.

Read Mark 14:32-42

1. As we pick up where we left off, remember that Jesus encouraged His disciples to watch and pray. We briefly peered over the different types of relationships He had with others. This was not because of any preferences, prejudices, or favoritism in Him, but because of the individual choices and responses made by others. Despite the close relationship Jesus had with John, known for leaning upon His chest and “being loved” (John 13:23), no one but the Father could be with Him in the darkest trial of His earthly life.

- a. Reflect for a moment on the types of relationships you have in your own life. You may have some people that you greatly love and possibly one or two that you can trust with the deepest treasures of your heart and soul. Regardless how much you may desire it to be different, there is only One Who can fully accompany you into your Garden of Gethsemane. There is only One Who can understand your soul's cry and pain when you go through dark trials.

Begin this lesson by taking your heart to Him in private prayer. Whether you have just come through a trial, are presently in the midst of one, or may be on the verge of entering a dark time, pour out your heart to the One Who sees you, hears you, understands you, and is always with you. Ask Him to prepare you for His truths and promises that are hidden within this chapter.

“It is in the deepest darkness of the starless midnight that men learn how to hold on to the hidden Hand most tightly and how that Hand holds them; that He sees where we do not, and knows the way He takes; and though the way be to us a roundabout way, it is the right way.”

~ A. T. Pierson

2. Rather than being just an outside observer, let's draw closer to Jesus in the Garden.

- a. Fill in the blanks below from Mark 14:34-35 which will emphasize some of what was happening inside His heart.

Then He said to them, “My _____ is _____ sorrowful,

even to _____ . Stay here and watch.” He went a little farther, and

_____ on the ground, and _____ that if it was possible, the hour

might _____ from _____ .

b. We don't have a record of everything Jesus prayed to His Father, but the Holy Spirit has plucked the words which are best for us to know. We are told that Jesus fell on His face and said, "Abba" (literally "Daddy") and then poured out His heart's desire. Write out this request from verse 36.

c. Turn to Hebrews 5:7 for further amplification. Summarize this verse in your own words.

d. Have you ever thought about the fact that perfect Jesus, Who loved His Father perfectly and completely, desired a different "cup" than what He was being given? Selah. Have you ever gone through a time when you struggled with the will of God for your life? Briefly explain here. If not, how does Jesus' struggle impact you?

3. Remember from a previous lesson, one great tactic of the enemy is to echo the truth, "All things are possible for" God the Father, but with a deceptive voice hiding insidious inflections meant to drive you to anger, bitterness or resentment over what He allows. It is true that the Lord could remove your adversity, calm the storm, heal the disease, or overcome anything else you may face, but His love for you has higher, more eternal purposes.

a. Jesus went to His (Abba) Daddy three times with the same request. Write out a short, concise list of anything you may have taken to the Lord in prayer and asked that He remove from you repetitively (in the past or present).

b. Paul was greatly used by the Lord, powerfully equipped by the Holy Spirit, given divine revelations into the Word and a vision of the heavenly realm. Yet, turn to 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 and recall what happened to him and his response.

c. What was the Lord's answer to his repeated prayer from the next verse? (2 Cor. 12:9)

4. The key to our salvation was a twelve-letter word spoken by Jesus in Mark 14:36 (NKJV). He may have drunk the cup of the Father's fury for our salvation on Calvary, but the *decision* to drink it was made here.

a. Write out Jesus' victorious word first, then the rest of the verse.

- b. Turn to John 5:30. Jesus said something that He would like us to cultivate in our relationship with Him as well. He acknowledged that He could do nothing independently and sought to hear His Father's voice regarding judgement. Jesus had confidence that He judged rightly because of doing what?
- c. Think about your life right now. You may be in school, have a job or career, be a housewife, widow, or volunteer at church. There are relationships you invest in and time you spend doing hobbies, sports, or other activities. Read Jesus' words in John 6:38. Can you say this about all areas of your life; for instance, the subjects you are studying in school, or the people you are investing your heart in, the hobbies or other ways that you spend your time? If so, how so? If not, why not?

***“There are no ‘if’s’ in God’s world. And no places that are safer than other places.
The center of His will is our only safety - let us pray that we may always know it!”
~ Corrie ten Boom, The Hiding Place***

Read Mark 14:43-49

5. John 18:3 says that Judas was given troops and officers to help him in his sin of betrayal against the Lord. Those that hated Jesus were willing to do anything towards His downfall. The invisible opposition of Jesus' day is still looking for Judas's or those who will fight against Him.
- a. John 14:17, John 17:23 and Colossians 1:27, all tell us that the hope of glory, the kingdom of God, Christ Himself, lives within us by the Holy Spirit and faith. Taking the underlined sentence above and combining it with the scriptures, what does this mean will happen in your life as a Christian?

- b. There are many people that stop attending church due to wounds or injuries they receive from others. Note how Matthew 26:48 designates Judas as the betrayer who chooses to use a kiss of greeting and love as his weapon of choice against the Lord. What does Jesus call him in verse 50?
- c. Look up Psalm 55:12-14 and listen to the broken heart of David recounting betrayal in his life. Summarize what his friendship must have been like from his description.
- d. In Mark 14:48-49 Jesus notes how ridiculous it is to come out against Him with all kinds of weapons and treat Him like He was an actual criminal. What did the disciples do as they witnessed this attack against Jesus (vs 50)?
- e. What did Paul say about his relationships with those in the church at Corinth from 2 Corinthians 12:15?
- f. Read Job 19:13-19. Summarize what it must have been like for Job with all of his relationships.

6. There was no one in Job's life, not even Job himself, who knew what was happening in the spiritual realm. No one had discernment that all of his trials came because of God's commendations. Likewise, the more Paul loved the church and spent time trying to help and give them the truths of scripture, the less he was cared for. Though Jesus had thoroughly warned the disciples of this dark betrayal, and despite the vehement denial of abandonment, ALL forsook Him as well.
 - a. The word "forsook" is sometimes interpreted in scripture as "divorce" or "leave behind." It's a form of rejection and abandonment to a covenant relationship in some cases. Think about how Jesus loved them, cared for them, poured into them, and was about to be poured out for them. Can you somehow relate to David, Job, Paul or Jesus to some degree? If so, briefly explain. (If you are in a small group, be sensitive to not share any damaging details that could hurt someone else).
 - b. Turn to the oft quoted passage of Hebrews 4:15 and read Who Jesus is to us today. How can you apply the truth of His character to any feelings of hurt or betrayal that might occur from those within the church?
 - c. Neither Job, David, Paul nor countless others in scripture, ceased to worship or praise God because of the sin of others or wrong judgements people make. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. Write down key words or phrases that speak to your heart and briefly explain why.

d. As Paul is a prisoner in Rome, he writes to Timothy about different situations in his life and reflects on what people have done to him. Read 2 Timothy 4:16-17. What three things did Jesus do for Paul after every person forsook him?

e. Write out the beautiful promise God has given to you from 2 Timothy 4:18.

*“Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed;
for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee;
yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”
Isaiah 41:10*

Read Mark 14:51-54; 66-72

7. As the introduction covered, it was quite a sequence of events that happened for Peter in a twenty-four hour time period. Mistake after mistake, led to sin after sin, which ended with broken-hearted remorse. If you could split the events of this night and display them side-by-side on movie screens, you could show the multitude of sin being committed by people on one side and contrast what it was costing Jesus on the other side.

a. Read Mark 14:54 again and write down:

1) Where was Peter walking in relation to Jesus?

2) Where did he eventually choose to sit down?

3) Who did he choose to sit with?

b. Read Proverbs 4:14-16 and then turn to Psalm 1:1. Recall that Peter would have been taught Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs, he would have sung this Psalm before, and he just went through three years of perfect discipleship from God Himself. Write out Psalm 1:1 and make it a personal verse. For example:
"Blessed is (your name)..."

c. When a person has stopped "watching" and "praying" in his heart, his actions towards others will be harmful rather than hurtful. When actions become hurtful towards others, a person can become fearful and self-focused, which can lead to trying to find more comfort with unbelievers than those which are Jesus' disciples. When a person is no longer following Jesus closely, nor fellowshiping with His people, they may sit in places with those who mock the Lord, succumb to temptation, and do things they never imagined they would do. Turn to Luke 22:61 and read what Jesus did once Peter fell just as he had been warned. Write out that first powerful sentence here.

d. Write down what Noah found in the midst of surrounding wickedness from Genesis 6:8.

8. Titus 2:11 begins “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” Peter wasn’t the only one that has denied Jesus repeatedly. He’s not the only one that thought better of himself than he should have.
- a. If there’s anything in your heart you need to get right with the Lord, look to the eyes of grace and write out the invitation He gives you from Hebrews 4:16.

“And then, what is grace? Grace is love. But grace is not love simply, and purely, and alone. Grace and love are, in their innermost essence, one and the same thing.”
~ Alexander Whyte

Read Mark 14:55-65

9. Now we read what happens to justice when sin infiltrates the hearts and minds of judges. Sin perverts everything it touches. Injustice poisons justice and lies are purported as truths. Combining all gospel accounts, we know that after his arrest, Jesus is initially led to Annas, ex-high priest and father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the official high priest at this time. He then is sent to Caiaphas himself and the Jewish council of the Sanhedrin late in the evening. The next morning, Jesus is brought again before the Sanhedrin where witnesses are called in and allowed to testify concerning Him.
- a. Read once more Mark 14:56, 57, 59. Write out some repeated words or key phrases you see.
- b. Turn to Deuteronomy 19 and read verses 15-19. According to the process of justice established by the Lord, what should have happened to those who were testifying lies against Jesus?

c. Only the Lord knows how many people would have hung on crosses that day if true justice was served. Read Matthew's account from 26:62-66 which followed outsiders' testimonies. While false accusations came at Jesus, He did not defend Himself. David Guzik writes "Jesus could have called witness after witness, and pointed to irrefutable evidence that He was indeed the Christ, the Son of God. But He knows that these hardened hearts care nothing for the facts of this case, so He simply testifies to the truth: 'It is as you said.'" Are there friends or family members in your life who provoke you concerning your relationship with the Lord? What have you found to be the best way to deal with their adversity; silence or responding to their accusations or something else? Briefly explain your experience and responses.

d. When pushed about His identity, Jesus answers their question but follows it with another gracious but severe warning. Though they temporarily judged Him now, there will be an unavoidable day in the future where He will judge them (as Daniel's vision in Daniel 7:13). This proclamation of Deity infuriated the high priest. What accusation in Matthew 26:65 is repeated twice against Jesus? Use a dictionary or Strong's concordance to define this word.

e. One Hebrew lexicon defines blasphemy as "to speak against someone in such a way to harm or injure their reputation." As a disciple of Jesus, you may experience slander like Jesus did. Though you can do nothing about others words or actions because of your faith, we are told what we can do. Fill in the blanks below with CAPITAL LETTERS from Titus 3:1-2.

"Remind them to be...ready for every _____ work, to
_____ evil of _____, to be
_____, _____ showing
all humility to _____ men."

"Between here and heaven, every minute that the Christian lives will be a minute of grace."

~ Charles Spurgeon

- f. Read Titus 3:3. Why do you think we are reminded of what we once were before the kindness and love of God appeared for our salvation?

10. Amy Carmichael was a well-known missionary to India, born in Ireland in 1867. She was a single woman with a great burden for the lost, hoping to spread the gospel amongst the Hindu saturated population of India. Instead, the Lord orchestrated events in her life to establish an orphanage that provided safety for countless numbers of children, many of which fled from the Hindu temple where young girls were dedicated to the gods and forced into prostitution to earn money for the priests. When she was approximately 60 years old, she had a fall which rendered her bed-ridden for the last 20 plus years of her life. From her sick bed, she wrote volumes of books and poetry that are still in circulation today encouraging Christians around the world. Here is a small section of a poem she wrote concerning the Lord's will and path for her life versus her choice and will.

“And shall I pray Thee change Thy will, my Father,
Until it be according unto mine?

But, no, Lord, no, that never shall be, rather
I pray Thee blend my human will with Thine.

I pray Thee hush the hurrying, eager longing,
I pray Thee soothe the pangs of keen desire—

See in my quiet places, wishes thronging—
Forbid them, Lord, purge, though it be with fire.”

- a. As you end your lesson, reflect on this poem from Amy Carmichael and recount Jesus' agony and victory in the garden of Gethsemane. Write down any personal thoughts about your will and the Lord's will. Write down what you have learned most from your lesson or where you realize you still struggle and could use prayer.

“At the place of execution, he again said a short prayer and then climbed the steps to the gallows, brave and composed. His death ensued after a few seconds. In almost fifty years that I worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God.”

~ Prison doctor who witnessed the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer