

The New Testament Church
The Humility of the Cross
 March 17, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The context of these passages from three Gospels

- A. They take place at some point the week before Palm Sunday
 - 1. When three gospels repeat the same story in a similar chronology, it is significant
 - 2. Jesus has raised Lazarus, but not yet entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday...
- B. Chronology of this section from the three Gospels
 - 1. Jesus died in our place – He is our substitute – but He also is our pattern – *principle of the cross*
 - 2. The cross is the symbol of humility – putting to death our pride – especially self-righteousness
 - 3. *Self-righteousness is having the motive of a personal agenda to be exalted in following Jesus!*

Matthew 20:17-34	Mark 10:32-52	Luke 18:31-43
- Jesus predicts his death and resurrection v. 17-19	- Jesus predicts his death and resurrection v. 32-34	- Jesus predicts his death and resurrection v. 31-33
- The mother of James and John, with her sons, ask to be on his right and left	- James and John ask Jesus to do whatever they ask – to sit on his right and left..	
- They do not understand the cup of suffering (humility) they need to truly serve others. Their pride brings division	- They do not understand the cup of suffering required for that level of humility and pride brings division to the others	- The disciples do not understand this – v. 34
- Jesus teaches on serving, contrasting His ways with the Gentiles (top-down)	- Jesus teaches on serving in contrast to the Gentiles (top-down)	
- Two blind men sit by the road, begging	- Blind Bartimaeus is begging by the road	- A blind man is begging by the road
- They cry out <i>Have mercy on us, O Lord!</i>	- He cries out <i>Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!</i>	- He cries out <i>Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!</i>
- They are warned to be quiet but cry out more	- They are warned to be quiet but cry out more	- He is told to be quiet, but cries out all the more
- Jesus asks what they want? <i>That our eyes may be opened!</i> Jesus heals them and they follow Him	- Jesus asks what he wants <i>Rabboni, that I may receive my sight</i> – he is healed and follows Jesus	- Jesus asks what he wants <i>that I may receive my sight.</i> Jesus heals him and he follows Jesus.

II The primary lesson we must learn in pondering the death and resurrection of Jesus...

- A. **Embracing the cross is the key to living the Christian life and requires a depth of humility and service where we no longer demand to be honored; but instead let God resurrect us in Christ!**
- B. This lesson can be illustrated in the life of St. Patrick – see the article in the lobby on St. Patrick