

The king who's dying to serve

Big idea: Jesus is the king (Christ / Son of Man) who came to die and serve by giving his life as a ransom to deal with the wrath of God for our sin

1. Paying the ransom

- I was shocked to read recently a ransom note written by a boy in the UK to Santa in order to get what he wanted for Christmas
 - [read note]
- Not just kids who resort to ransom notes to get their own way > mums & dads have been prone to this type of extortion as well
 - [read note]
- It doesn't stop there ... even our pets are getting in on the act
 - [read note]

- Whether it's
 - jokes like this
 - Or movies like Ransom and Proof of Life
 - Or more sinister kidnappings we see on the news ...
- We're used to seeing a ransom being paid to ensure the release of the innocent party

- It may surprise you to realize that Easter is a about a ransom payment
 - There are people who are captive and in danger; and
 - There's a payment required to ensure their freedom
- But even more surprising is that the ransom payment isn't money
 - It's a person's life
- Secondly it's not paid to ensure the release of the innocent ...
 - it's actually paid for release of the guilty

- Preaching through book of Mark
 - Mark's account of the life of Jesus

- While Mark 10:32-45 is prior to arrest and crucifixion in Jerusalem ...
 - it gives us a very clear explanation of what Easter is all about; and
 - why Jesus death is so crucial to understanding the Christian faith

PRAY

2. Jesus came to die (32-34)

- Jesus and his disciples are heading south from Galilee in the north to Jerusalem in the south
 - This is a death march for Jesus
 - He knows his enemies are in Jerusalem > Pharisee, CPs, and TOL
 - They've been plotting to kill Jesus every since he started preaching and teaching and doing amazing miracles that proved he was the Son of God
 - He knows Jerusalem is the place where he will die
- Jesus has told this to his disciples twice already¹
 - Now as they approach Jerusalem Jesus tells his disciples a third time what is about to happen to him
 - *v33-34 ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."*
- When Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man (SOM)
 - Not reference to his humanity > though he is both fully God and fully man
 - Reference to a kingly figure referred to in OT book of Daniel
 - **Daniel 7:13-14** ¹³ *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He*

¹ 8:31; 9:31

*approached the Ancient of Days [God] and was led into his presence.
14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples,
nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an
everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one
that will never be destroyed.*

- Notice SOM here in Daniel
 - Given power and authority over all ppl, nations and men
 - All ppl worshipped him
 - Rule would be eternal
 - Kingdom never be destroyed
- This SOM figure is the opposite of all earthly kings

- When Jesus calls himself the SOM ... he's saying
 - I'm the kingly figure that Daniel dreamt about who has great power and authority
 - I will reign over my kingdom forever & my kingdom will never be destroyed
 - I'm the King of kings and Lord of lords

- When we understand who Jesus is ... then we can appreciate just how shocking it is that despite his total power and authority, ppl are going to
 - *Betray Jesus > condemn him > mock him > flog him > and have him killed*

- And because Jesus is God the Son and knows all things ... what he declared to the disciples on that road to Jerusalem is EXACTLY what happened

- Just a few days later Jesus entered Jerusalem in the build up to the Passover festival

- As he was celebrating the Passover feast with his 12 disciples, one of them – Judas, left him to go and betray Jesus to the CP's, Pharisees and TOL
- It was Judas who arranged for Jesus arrest in Garden of Gethsemane
- In the early hours of the morning the Jewish council hurriedly convened a kangaroo court where Jesus was falsely accused and then condemned
- Because the Jews were under Roman rule, the Jews handed him over the Pontius Pilate who ordered his execution
- Before his death, the soldiers mock him and spit on him and beat him
- He then carried his cross through the streets of Jerusalem like a condemned criminal where he was hung on a cross and died

- **Implication**
- Now it's clear isn't it, that Jesus death on cross in Jerusalem is central to his mission
 - The reason why God the Son came to earth ...
 - Was not to heal the sick and demon possessed
 - Not to amaze ppl with miracles such as feeding 5000 > raising ppl from dead > walking on water
 - Reason he came was to go to the cross and die

- And he's doing it **willingly**
 - Jesus is deliberately heading to Jerusalem ... the hot bed of opposition to Jesus
 - And notice in v32 ... it's Jesus who is leading the way
 - He's not dragging his sandals at the back of the line ... trying to look all inconspicuous ... or hoping someone will lead the group off in another direction
 - No! Jesus is leading the charge here
 - He's totally in control > willingly ... deliberately heading towards his death

- **Summary**

- So even though Jesus is the power and authoritative SOM ... his mission is to go to the cross
- He is the KING who has come to die

3. Jesus came to serve (35-45)

- The obvious question is WHY?
 - Why would the SOM ... who God has given power and authority to rule over all the ppl and nations of the world forever ...
 - Why would he willingly come to earth in order to go to the cross and die
- If you're going to understand Jesus ... and you're going to understand the Christian faith ... you need to understand not just that Jesus came to die ... but why he came to die
- v35-45 Jesus makes this clear
- The context is two of Jesus disciples – James and John come to Jesus seeking to sit at his left and right hand when Jesus is glorified
 - They think Jesus is going to
 - enter Jerusalem
 - get rid of the Romans
 - be installed as the rightful king of Israel
 - restore Israel to its former glory
 - And they want to be his top two lieutenants when it all happens
- Clearly they fail to understand what Jesus has been saying all along and has just repeated to them
 - He will be glorified ... but it will only happen after his suffering at the cross
 - In order to become the glorified KOK & LOL ... Jesus first must suffer the humiliation and agony of crucifixion

- In responding to their worldliness Jesus gives three explanations of his approaching death and why it is necessary
- He speaks of
 - A cup he must drink
 - A baptism he must undergo
 - A ransom he must pay
- **A cup he must drink (v38)**
- In v38 Jesus says to the disciples
 - *"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink ..."*
- In the OT 'the cup' is something given by God
 - It can be a cup of salvation and blessing
 - But it can also be a cup of God's wrath which is to be drunk by ppl under his judgment for their sin
 - **Jeremiah 25:15-16** *"Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. ¹⁶ When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them."*
- Drinking from the cup is a metaphor for drinking down God's wrath and judgment
 - And like drinking a cup of poisonous wine ... those who drink from it die
- This is the cup of wrath that Jesus was speaking about on the night Jesus was arrested and betrayed by Judas ... and he prayed
 - Mark 14:36 > *"Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

- **A baptism he must undergo (v38)**
- The second clue to the significance of Jesus death is also there in v38
 - "Can you [...] be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"
- We're familiar with the idea of baptism being a washing of water to symbolise the forgiveness of sins for those who trust in Jesus
 - But in the OT ... to be overwhelmed with water was another metaphor for the judgment of God
 - Noah and the Flood > Gen 6 > God's judgment on sinful humanity was through the overwhelming waters of the flood
 - The OT prophet Jonah experienced God's judgment for ignoring Gods' word ... and is thrown into the sea and overwhelmed by the raging waters
- Jesus sees his upcoming death as a baptism in which he will be overwhelmed by great suffering as the wrath and judgment of God falls on him
- **A ransom he must pay (v45)**
- So Jesus knows his death will incur the wrath and judgment of God
 - But why?
 - Why does Jesus have to do this?
- The answer comes with our third clue in v45
 - *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
- A ransom is the price that is paid to release someone > its the price that is paid to buy their freedom
- **Illustration – Warren Rodwell**

- Just last week Australian man Warren Rodwell was released by Islamic militants in the Philippines where he had been held captive for 15mths
- His sister and brother paid a ransom price of 4 million pesos (\$98,000) for his release ... otherwise he would have died

- So we see in v45 the reason for Jesus death is revealed!
 - Even though he is the Son of Man who has power and authority over all ppl and nations of the earth
 - He willingly lays down his life as a ransom for many
 - The cup he must drink ... and the baptism he must undergo ... is to pay the ransom price that is required to free ppl from the judgment of God they deserve

- Jesus sees his death on the cross as a ransom to release many from bondage
 - He is paying what they cannot pay so that 'many' may go free
 - He is substituting himself for them
 - And at the cost of his life ... they get freedom

- Of course, the irony is that Jesus had the right as the glorious Son of Man to be served by humanity
 - But instead he chose to be the servant of humanity by giving his life as a ransom for many

- **What Are "the Many" Ransomed From?**
- The question is ... what are the many ransomed from?
- Jesus describes us in John 8:34 as enslaved to sin: *"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."*
 - Jesus didn't see us as occasionally sinning, but as under the power of sin
 - We are slaves of sin and we need to be ransomed from its power and consequences

- But that's not the worst of it
 - Jesus taught that the penalty for sin is eternal punishment
 - In Matthew 25:46 he says, "*Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*"

- Sin brings the wrath of God
 - So the slavery and the bondage that we need ransoming from is the slavery of sin and eternal judgment

- **Application**
- Bu the good news of Easter that we remember today is that Jesus died on the cross as a ransom for many
- *The ransom price was his life*
- This is why the Bible says again and again that Christ *died* to save us
 - "While we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8)
 - "We were reconciled to God through the death of his Son" (Rom 5:10)
 - "He bore our sins in his body on the cross" (1 Pet 2:24)
 - "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous" (1 Pet 3:18)

- At the cross our sin would be dealt with once and for all ... past, present and future
 - That means when it comes to our standing before God ...
 - Jesus has done it all for us ...
 - There is nothing we can DO because it's already BEEN DONE

- Jesus has drunk the cup right to the bottom ...
 - He's drained it dry so that all of God's wrath has been dealt with forever

- **All** of our sin has been dealt with

- There's nothing left over ...
- There's nothing that remains unforgiven
- There's no more sin that we need to pay for

- So we see the heart of the Christian message is that Christ came to give his life a ransom for many.
 - That is ... to save many from their sin and from its guilt and power and penalty in eternal punishment

- That's great news

4. Are you in the 'many'?

- And so the question for all of us is this ...
 - Are you in the many?
 - Jesus came to die as a ransom for many ... so are you one of the 'many'?
 - Were you ransomed when Christ died?
 - Are you still under the guilt and power of sin or have you been freed?
 - Are you moving toward eternal life or eternal punishment?

- Who are the many that were ransomed by the Son of Man when he gave his life?
 - In John 15:13 Jesus answers the question about whom he ransomed
 - "Greater love has no one than this ... that one lay down his life for his friends."
 - He says that he will lay down his life for his friends
 - He will ransom his friends

- So here is the question for us this Easter
 - Are you a friend of Jesus?
 - If you are, when Jesus died on the cross you were ransomed from sin and death

- Friends this is the good news of Christianity
 - This is why we call today Good Friday
 - If you're a friend of Jesus because you repented of your sin and put your trust in him ... then I pray today you've been reminded of just what good news it is to be a friend of Jesus
 - If you're a Christian ... you should never tire of hearing this good news
 - It's like a wife whose husband often tells her he loves her and is devoted to her
 - She never tires of hearing it and rejoices in it every time
 - And so do those who are friends of Jesus

- If you're here this morning and you don't yet consider yourself a friend of Jesus ... then you can become one this morning

- How do you become a friend of Jesus?
- Jesus said in Mark 1:15 ... that the way to do this is to 'repent and believe'
 - That is you say sorry for your sin and you trust in Jesus death as the ransom price to give you eternal life
 - You can do that today ... and become a friend of Jesus and know for certain that Jesus death has paid the ransom price for you and set you free for eternal life

PRAYER

- Dear God
 - I know I am not worthy to be accepted by you. I don't deserve to your gift of eternal life. I am guilty of sinning against you and living life my own way. I need your forgiveness
 - Thank you for sending Jesus to die to pay the ransom price for my sin so that I can be set free and forgiven.
 - Please forgive me and help me trust in and follow Jesus as my Lord and king.
- Amen