

# FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Bobby D. Hamilton, Th.M.

## Dedicated to Discipleship Series

### Sermon Notes

#### Part 6

We Are Not Forgotten

Mark 10:28-31

I am reminded of the story about the mother from Pearland, Texas who took her baby girl to Chuck E. Cheese for a blowout birthday celebration. All of her family and friends had a great time at her birthday celebration. It was a party to remember, but unfortunately after the party was over her mother did not remember her. That's right, her mom forgot all about her and left her at the Chuck Cheese site while she and the rest of the family went home for the night.

Thankfully, we have a God who doesn't forget us in the midst of a party or in the midst of pain. Although at times in this life we do feel forgotten, dropped, abandoned, rejected, and ignored like David in Psalm 13, like Asaph in Psalm 73, or like Jeremiah in 20:14-18. Nevertheless, the truth of the Lord remains true – We are not forgotten.

Such is the truth of this text. A text in which Jesus' disciples are asking their all -important question to them in this season of their service, what's in it for us? What will be the return on our investment?

The genesis of this question sprung forth from a lively discussion that Jesus had with a rich man which is found in Mark 10:17-27. When the exchange with the rich man concluded, 2 things were for certain. One, his works based self-righteous approach to salvation would not make him right with God. He loved himself and his stuff more than God. He was an idolater. Two, the disciples felt short changed, because unlike the rich young man, they accepted Jesus' offer to follow Him, but the offer Jesus made to him in verse 21 regarding treasure in heaven was not offered to them in the same way. Therefore, they felt forgotten. They were beginning to wonder if they had made the right choice. It is at this point that Jesus graciously calms their racing hearts and our racing hearts regarding the rewards for following Him. 3 Key Points:

#### **I. Re-examine your motive for doing ministry. (v.28)**

Peter began to say – (Gr. legein- (present, active, infinitive) to speak.

Peter began to repeatedly say this over and over – we have left everything and followed You. Matthew 19:28 says it more explicitly, we have left everything and followed You, what then will there be for us?

“A Place to Begin Again”

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Not only did Peter think about the sacrifices that were made by he and his brother Andrew, but also James and John, Matthew the former tax collector, and Simon the former Zealot, but Peter had to recall the behavior of those who were called in Luke 9:57-62 who were also called by Jesus but they were always busy, always preoccupied, always having to tend to their families, but not Peter and they boys- the left everything to follow Jesus.

There is a hint of unfairness in Peter's reply? Do you ever feel as if the Lord has been unfair with you? That you have forsaken so many things for the cause of Christ and yet you too feel short-changed?

Peter's statement also reveals something on a deeper level about our motive for following Jesus. The Lord is not opposed to us desiring the rewards He has promised us, but He is very opposed to the thought of a reward superseding our love and devotion to Him. I thought Peter followed Him, based on his discovery in Matthew 16:16 when he said, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.* Just because of who He is, but now it appears that things have changed.

What about you? Why do you really follow and serve Christ? What are you hoping that He will do for you, and what if He doesn't do it like you want it or when you want it?

Perhaps, now is a good time for us to cry out like the Psalmist in Psalm 139:23-24, who asked the Lord to search him from the inside out. Or perhaps we should cry out like the Psalmist in Psalm 51:10 who pleaded for a clean heart. Our motives can become twisted, self-centered, and polluted with pride, so let the washing begin.

### **II. Remember how blessed you really are. (29-30)**

Jesus taught a very important lesson to His disciples in verses 29-30, He taught them that whatever they give up for the kingdom will be not only replaced but multiplied. The very thing they lost for the cause of Christ would be replaced by Christ.

Jesus is not mesmerizing them with materialism, He's talking about relationships throughout the body of Christ. He is letting them know that through the body of Christ they would have access to new houses, new brothers and sisters, new mothers and properties. This is what Jesus exemplified himself in Mark 3:31-35 when it came to his biological family. This is also what Paul exemplified in Romans 16:13, when he called Rufus' mother his mother.

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We are brothers and sisters in Christ and as such we care for one another, support one another, love one another, meet the needs of one another as is seen in Acts 2. This is a far cry from the rugged individualism we see paraded among church members today.

Further, in the age to come will be eternal life. (Gr. aionios zoe) the life which eternal through Christ. Eternal life is about a relationship. See John 17:3, John 10:10 Jesus is promising a richer life, a sharing of the Divine life of God.

Jesus is promising blessing upon blessing in this age and the age to come- which is the millennial age (See Revelation 20:1-7) and ultimately the eternal age. (See Revelation 21-22)

In short, in spite of the persecutions, Acts 5:41, and pain in following Christ, we are blessed. Can you name 7 blessings that you have in Jesus Christ?

Please review:

Ephesians 1:3, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:8-10, Ephesians 3:20, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 6:13-17, Ephesians 6:23-24

### **III. Rejoice in what's on the way. (v.31)**

Contextually Jesus' statement about the great reversal points back to the rich young ruler's status in society. The societal belief of that day was that if you were rich then you were truly blessed by God. If you were not rich, you were cursed and rejected by God. But Jesus is flipping the script and saying that what works in this kingdom does not apply in His kingdom. Those who society elevates in this life will be demoted in the next life by the Savior. Those who are last will be first. Those who have followed Him, served Him, sacrificed for Him, and even died for Him have not done this in vain.

However, we can't look for instant rewards. See Jesus' parable in Matthew 20:1-16. In the mean -time and in the between time, we must wait for His promises in faith. (Hebrews 11:6)

In closing, serving the Lord is not always easy, but it will always payoff. You will never be forgotten in this life or the one to come.

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