

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Mark 10:35-39

1. The Way of the World

As they approach Jerusalem together, what a contrast between:

- what occupies our Lord's mind (32ff),
- & what occupies His disciples' minds -

as shown in the question from James & John (vv.35-37).

Their thinking was still the thinking of this world – focused on desires for self-gratification, prestige, positions of power & privilege –

like the power-worshiping rulers of pagan nations (vs42).

The “way of the world” has not changed in the centuries since then – and it is the way NOT just of rulers and the rich;

it is human nature – **our** sinful & fallen human nature.

2. The Cross: the Way of Our Lord

Jesus' path was a mystery to His disciples, alien to their thinking.

Jesus' path was the path of humble service & self-giving,

leading to the ultimate self-giving of Himself on the cross -

NOT as a martyr, BUT as a sacrifice to atone for our sins,

laying down His life as a ransom for many (vs.45).

Jesus followed this path in obedience to His Father

(the eternal counsel of the Triune God)

and out of love for sinners (His enemies).

There was *no other way* for wicked people like you & me

to be made right with the holy God.

Here we see the character of the Kingdom of God - the self-giving heart of God & the model for all who look to Jesus for salvation.

3. The Cross: the Way of His People (vv.43,44)

Therefore, the CROSS is also “the way” for Christ's redeemed people!

He went that way to save us when we were His enemies & “dead”.

He went that way to show us how to truly live (1 Pet.2:21)

He calls us to die to sins, to die to sins of self-promotion, egoism, the idolatry “my way”.

As you take the Lord's Supper, commit yourself to the way of the cross.

⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2 (NKJV)