



Sermon Study Guide for March 22, 2020

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: In our world today, many people live by the maxim “Might Makes Right” – which is survival by the fittest, where the strong overpower the weak to get their way. Jesus’ disciples were often tempted by worldly fame, power, and authority. Jesus turns everything upside down when He told them that whoever wanted to be great had to be lowly. Who ever wanted to lead had to serve. And He ultimately is the greatest of all because He became the servant of all.

Getting Started:

1. How have you seen people caring for each other, serving each other, and blessing each other during these days of pandemic?
2. What are some favorite Scripture passages that you have held onto during these days of uncertainty?

In the Word: Isaiah 42:1-9

3. In the Servant Songs of Isaiah, the Lord gave him a prophecy of a coming Servant – the Messiah – who would bring about salvation for the people of God. In some ways, the prophecies were fulfilled with the return of the Jewish exiles in Babylon, but in other ways, the prophecies were ultimately fulfilled in Jesus – God’s ultimate salvation. How do verses 1-4 describe Jesus?
4. We have hope because of the Servant of God, Jesus! And the Servant (Jesus) will gather the people of God. This became the Christian Church, made of both Jews & Gentiles. What do verses 6-7 say about the people of God and to the people of God?
5. Look how jealous God is for our glory and praise that is due Him in verse 8. How can we make sure that we do not give God’s glory to another, or praise or serve idols and false gods?
6. Discuss the connections between verse 9 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Read Matthew 20:20-28

7. You gotta love a mother's heart here. Did your mom ever advocate for you, or step in and seek your welfare? Share a moment or memory that you have about your mom looking out for you.

8. James and John's mother is asking for a special position for her sons in Jesus' kingdom. What kind of 'Kingdom' do you think they had in mind?

9. What do you think Jesus' means when he says in verse 22 "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" (look up Matthew 26:39 for a clue).

10. What was the reaction of the other ten apostles when they heard what Zebedee's family had asked Jesus? (verse 24) and how would you have responded?

11. Jesus then makes a great comparison, an important contrast between the rulers of the Gentiles as an example of worldly authority, and the way that the disciples should behave in the Kingdom of God. Jesus flips the world upside down! "Servant Leadership" is sometimes used to describe what Jesus is talking about here, where leaders and individuals find their purpose and fulfillment in serving others, rather than domineering them and self-serving. Can you think of positive examples of this Servant Leadership Jesus describes?

Putting it all Together

12. How is God calling you to serve during these days of pandemic?

13. What are some resources that have helped you and strengthened you in faith lately?

Prayer: Ask the Lord to bless and strengthen His church for a bold and powerful witness to Christ and His amazing love for each of us. Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower the Church to rise up for such a time as this and demonstrate servant leadership in Jesus' name. And pray for comfort and peace to all who are feeling isolated and lonely, that we may be strengthened in bonds of faith, hope and love.

Lenten Service: Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m. LIVESTREAM ONLY at www.oursaviorlansing.org/livestream and focused on "The Greek Cross – CALLED."