

SCRIPTURE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST.
MATTHEW

CHAPTER 20

Chronologically, Luke 18:30 goes to Mt 20:1.

Mt 20:1. For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder (or land owner) (or farmer), which (or who) went out early in the morning (or at daybreak) to hire labourers (or men to work) (or workers) into (or for) his vineyard.

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 20

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 1/2 years.

Matthew 20:1 takes place approximately 41 months after Jesus began His ministry.

Chronologically, Luke 18:30 goes to Mt 20:1.

Mt 20:1. This begins the **parable of the householder**. Also called the parable of the laborers in the vineyard.

"The kingdom of heaven" is mentioned in the Bible 32 times.

All of them are in the New Testament.

All of them are in Matthew's Gospel.

Eleven times the words "kingdom of heaven is like" or "is likened" appears.

Mt 20:1-16 is what is called the parable of the householder. Peter's question motivated this parable from Jesus.

Peter had asked, "What shall we have therefore?" The parable reveals the reward is of grace, not of debt.

A **PARABLE** is a short made up story, or it can be a riddle, that is used to teach people something or even answer a question.

The **parables** can be used in the New Testament to illustrate a proper or moral attitude, or a religious idea, or principle, or lesson, or to teach something specific.

The people that the parables are meant to teach, however, are **those that want to follow Jesus.**

To all others, a parable is just a group of words that have little meaning as it applies to them. It is the Holy Spirit that gives understanding. Ever hear a person say that they just do not understand the Bible? Usually it is because they have not repented and obeyed what they do understand.

If a person believes in Jesus, they are commanded to **repent.** After repentance, they are commanded to be baptized everyone, and that is by full immersion-ref Acts 2:38; ref Mk 16:16.

There is no such thing in the Bible as baptism by sprinkling or infant baptism. These are Satan's counterfeits. **Any church that does infant or sprinkling baptism—run from them.** Do not argue with them, lest you be tempted and fall into the same deceit they are in.

Parables. There appear to be a total of 31 individual parables. Some are repeated in more than one of the Gospels. There seems to be a disagreement in the number of parables, because of what a person's definition is regarding a parable.

There are 23 in Matthew.

There are 8 in Mark.

There are 24 in Luke.

There are 0 in John.

Some are duplications.

As a person reads the Bible, much of it is hard to understand in the beginning. However, to the person that persists and **DOESN'T give up easily,** their understanding does increase and

increase. It is not uncommon to hear a preacher say something like: I have read that passage many times; and every time I read it, I learn even more.

The Bible is unlike **any other book in the world**. When reading and studying the Bible, there seems to be no end of learning.

God's Word says clearly: Matt 11:29, 30-Take my yoke upon you, and **LEARN of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

A person that has a heart **wanting to learn more of Jesus** (as said somewhat previously), as they persist, their understanding of God's Word, including parables, increases more and more and more. A person the reads the Bible little, loves Jesus only a little, because **Jesus is the Word of God**.

As Jesus taught, some people wanted to follow Him everywhere He went. Others did not. Which would love Him the most?

Read the Bible through one time. A person's understanding is what we may say not so good.

Read the Bible a second time. The person's understanding increases some.

Read the Bible five times, and a wealth of understanding and knowledge comes forth.

Increased understanding of the Bible NEVER ENDS to the person that is faithful, persistent, patient, obeys God's Word, and repents as their understanding increases.

REPENTANCE is mandatory for salvation. However as a person studies God's Word and continues learning, repentance

becomes a continuing or ongoing thing.

LOVE is the same. As a person grows in God's Word, they grow to love God's Word more. They also grow in love toward their brothers and sisters in Christ more and more, regardless of what church they attend. However, not everyone that claims they are a Christian, are a Christian. By their fruits, ye shall know them. Also by their confession that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, you shall know them.

God's Word is Jesus. Jesus is God's Word.

How much should we love? Jesus loved so deeply that He gave His life a ransom for many.

Returning to the parable. One may equate this parable to serving God, or Christian service and rewards or riches.

In Mt 20:1, the kingdom of heaven is like a man. That man is a person that owns land and needs workers.

That man is a householder, which means a person that has authority. He owns some property, such as a farm or a field, or it could be a business, or even a factory. This would be a person that has money and authority, as he employs several people.

Jesus is in the Kingdom of Heaven. The heaven and the earth are His. For by Him and for Him were all things created. The householder can be related to Jesus.

Jesus needs employees for the land, which is His, to bring in the harvest. So the householder went out very early in the morning to hire people to work for the day.

A follower of Jesus has two main responsibilities. One is to immerse himself in God's Word, so he can grow in faith and understanding of God's Word; and second, he is to be a doer of God's Word, not a reader or hearer only. The Bible may be said to be God's instruction book to man.

A person that comes to Jesus is to go out into the harvest field to gather in the crop, as he learns from the Bible. His light for Jesus should be shining.

Secret Christians that hide their faith in Christ, because of fear or other reasons, need to grow in God's Word, as all Christians need to do. So-called Christians that will not follow Jesus (which is God's Word) and will not do what God has called them to do are unprofitable servants that will ultimately be rejected.

So at daybreak workers were hired to work in the vineyard. As already alluded to: Sunrise to sunset was the work day.

This can also be related to Israel first receiving God's Word, and the householder being the Lord, and the workers being those He called to bring in the fruit.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:1**, For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder (or land owner) (or farmer), which (or who) went out early in the morning (or at daybreak) to hire labourers (or men to work) (or workers) into (or for) his vineyard.

Mt 20:2. The parable of the householder continues.

The land owner then made an agreement with the workers that he had hired for the normal daily wage. This was a denarius.

Mt 20:2. And when (or after) he had agreed with the labourers for a penny (or denarius) (or on a wage) (or the standard daily wage) (for) a (or the) day, he sent them (off) into (or to) his vineyard.

A denarius was a silver coin, which was the equivalent of a normal day's wages. Reportedly, they were produced under the authority of Rome. They were minted by Tiberius. Only gold or silver coins could be minted. The one side reportedly had the face of Tiberius, and the other showed him sitting on his throne.

Different assessments have been given to the value of a denarius. One includes \$35 to \$45.

After the agreement was made, then the land owner sent the workers off to the vineyard to do the work.

Israel, from back long before Christ, has been noted for its excellent grapes and wines. This is also true today, as they make many world - class wines and export them to many countries around the world. Certain parts of Israel have just the right climate and kind of soil to produce excellent grapes. For the tourist that has the time, some of these wineries have tours that include wine-tasting. The Carmel winery is a very good one, but there are many others, also.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:2**, And when (or after) he had agreed with the labourers for a penny (or denarius) (or on a wage) (or the standard daily wage) (for) a (or the) day, he sent them (off) into (or to) his vineyard.

Mt 20:3. And he went out about the third hour (or about 9 in the morning), and saw others (more men) standing idle (or around) in the market place (or market-square) (doing nothing),

Mt 20:3. The householder again went out about 9am. This was his second trip. When he went out, he saw more men that had come and were standing around doing nothing in the market square. This would be the area where many sellers of produce and many types of equipment came together to sell. It might be compared to a flea market type of area.

The people probably just stand here and there

Mt 20:4. And said unto (or to) them (or those) (or told them); Go ye also (or you go) into the (or my) vineyard (too), and whatsoever (or whatever) is right, I will give (or pay) you (a fair wage) (too). And (so) they went their way.

Mt 20:5. Again he went out about the sixth (hour) (or at noon) and (the) ninth hour (or around three in the afternoon), and (he) did likewise (or did the same thing).

conversing with each other discussing whatever comes to their minds as the day wastes away. Most want some work, while others are probably just hanging out.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:3**, And he went out about the third hour (or about 9 in the morning), and saw others (more men) standing idle (or around) in the market place (or market-square) (doing nothing),

Mt 20:4. The householder (or we may say, house owner or farmer, or land or vineyard owner), did not promise the potential workers any certain amount of money. Rather, he told them that whatever is right, he would give them. The people would have known this man from the past, and they would have trusted him to keep his word. In other words, in the past when he had hired people, he had dealt with them in a good and righteous manner.

So these also went into the vineyard to work and did not negotiate a specific wage.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:4**, And said unto (or to) them (or those) (or told them); Go ye also (or you go) into the (or my) vineyard (too), and whatsoever (or whatever) is right, I will give (or pay) you (a fair wage) (too). And (so) they went their way.

Mt 20:5. The householder again went out about noon or the **sixth** hour. He did not have enough workers, so he wished to hire more.

The householder again went out about the **ninth** hour, which would be about three in the afternoon. He still did not have enough workers.

The householder appears to have had a huge vineyard. This would also indicate that he was very rich.

Mt 20:6. And about the eleventh hour (or about an hour before sundown) he went out, and found (still) others standing (around) idle, and (He) saith (or said) unto them (or asked them), Why stand ye here (or why have you been standing here) all the day (long) idle (or doing nothing)?

It appears he again did not promise the potential workers any certain amount of money. Rather, he told them that whatever is right, he would give them. The workers would have to trust their employer to do the right thing.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:5**. Again he went out about the sixth (hour) (or at noon) and (the) ninth hour (or around three in the afternoon), and (he) did likewise (or did the same thing).

Mt 20:6. At about 5pm, the house-holder went out again and found some people that were just standing around. He asked them why they had been standing there all the day doing nothing. It seems he was saying to them, "Why are you so lazy?"

But then the question arises as to why he had not seen them himself, so he could have hired them. In some way, it appears they were not in a place where they could have been seen. It seems they were not ready to be hired.

One may relate this to people wanting salvation, but not being ready to be hired to serve the Lord. The time was not right. When the master came to hire them, they were in the shadows or off in the distance. They were still too self-centered and not really ready to work.

This can also relate to Israel. They are now a very prosperous nation, yet surrounded by many enemies. God is calling them to hire them, but only a few are responding. That will change when Russia and many allies attack them in the beginning of the Tribulation, and they will have to cry out to God.

It was now only about an hour before sundown, which is when the working day usually ended.

Mt 20:7. They say unto (or to) him, Because no man (or no one) hath (or has) hired us (they answered). He saith (or said) unto (or to) them, Go ye (or you) also into the vineyard (and work); and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

Mt 20:8. So when even was (or had) come (or came), the lord (or owner) of the vineyard saith (or said) unto (or to) his steward (or foreman),

As it has been said in **Mt 20:6**, And about the eleventh hour (or about an hour before sundown) he went out, and found (still) others standing (around) idle, and (He) saith (or said) unto them (or asked them), Why stand ye here (or why have you been standing here) all the day (long) idle (or doing nothing)?

Mt 20:7. The householder had asked why this group of people he discovered had been idle all the day long. The group of people told him it was because no one had hired them.

The householder told them to go to work in his vineyard. He did not tell them how much they would receive, except he did say whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

So it appears they went forth to work in the vineyard for the short time that was left.

Thus, there were now four groups of laborers. Those hired very early in the morning, those that were hired about nine in the morning, those hired about three in the afternoon, and those that were hired about five in the evening.

This also has the meaning of a person being called by the Lord, some early in their life, some a bit older, and others a bit later, and some called late in their life.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:7**, They say unto (or to) him, Because no man (or no one) hath (or has) hired us (they answered). He saith (or said) unto (or to) them, Go ye (or you) also into the vineyard (and work); and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

Mt 20:8. Now the evening had arrived. It was about six in the evening. This is the end of the work day.

Call the labourers (or workers), and give (or pay) them their hire (or wages), beginning from (or with) the last (group) (or last ones hired) (and going) unto (or to) (or ending with) the first.

Mt 20:9. And when they (or those) (workers) came that were hired about the eleventh hour, (or an hour before sunset) they (or each) received every man a penny (or denarius).

Some of the workers had worked a long day and born the heat of the day. While others had worked a half a day, and still others had worked a very short time.

The owner of the vineyard told his foreman to call all the workers and give them their wages.

The workers in the field are symbolic of the workers for the Lord. They go out in the fields.

They go out into the highways and by ways seeking for fruit. They are searching for souls. They are seeking to spread the Gospel and get a harvest.

So the foreman was instructed by the owner (God the Father) to pay the workers, beginning with those that worked the shortest hours, and then the rest.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:8**, So when even was (or had) come (or came), the lord (or owner) of the vineyard saith (or said) unto (or to) his steward (or foreman), Call the labourers (or workers), and give (or pay) them their hire (or wages), beginning from (or with) the last (group) (or last ones hired) (and going) unto (or to) (or ending with) the first.

Mt 20:9. Then came the workers that had been hired last. These had only worked for one hour.

It was now after six in the evening. Each worker, though he had only worked an hour, received a full day's wages, which was a denarius. One can imagine how grateful they were. They were receiving wages for a full day, that is, 12 hours, yet only worked for 1 hour.

Indeed, the landowner was very generous to those that had not worked a full day, yet they

Mt 20:10. But (or so) when the (or those) (were) (hired) first came, they supposed (or thought) (or expected) that they should (or would) have received (or receive) (or get) more; and they likewise (or also) received every man (or each one) (just) (a penny (or denarius)).

Mt 20:11. And when they had received it (or on receiving) (their wages), they murmured (or grumbled) (or began to grumble) (or began grumbling) against (or at) (or to) the goodman of the house (or landowner) (or farmer),

received a full day's wages.

One would consider that these workers would want to return again and to work for such a generous employer.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:9**, And when they (or those) (workers) came that were hired about the eleventh hour, (or an hour before sunset) they (or each) received every man a penny (or denarius).

Mt 20:10. Finally, it was time for those that worked all the day long to come and receive their wages. Their proper salary would be the normal one day's wages. However, since the others had received a day's wages for less than a day's work, they expected and wanted more, even though such a thing had not been promised to them.

Finally, when the money was handed out, they received the normal one day's wages.

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Mt 20:11. When the workers had received their just wages, as had been normal for a full day's work, they were angry instead of being grateful. They wanted more, because the others had received a full day's wages for less than a full day's work. It may be said they were jealous or ungrateful. They were now not satisfied with what they were promised and had agreed to. It seems there was some dishonesty in them.

Then they began to grumble and speak

Mt 20:12. Saying, These last (men) (who were hired last) (or latecomers) have wrought (or worked) but (or only) one hour, (They said) and thou (or you) hast (or have) made them equal unto (or to) us, (or have put them on an equal footing with us) which have borne the burden (or brunt of the day's work in the hot sun) and (the) (scorching) heat of the day.

(Note Ja 1:11; Mt 13:6.)

unkindly against the good landowner that had hired them. Unfortunately, it seems, the whole group seemed ungrateful.

Evil thoughts, unjust reasons, and a sour attitude can sometimes even manifest themselves in Christians that have followed Jesus a long time (ref verses 11 to 15).

As it has been said in **Mt 20:11**, And when they had received it (or on receiving) (their wages), they murmured (or grumbled) (or began to grumble) (or began grumbling) against (or at) (or to) the goodman of the house (or landowner) (or farmer),

Mt 20:12. The many accusing words they spoke reflects they were very emotional.

They accused the others that they had only worked for one hour, yet received a day's wages.

They accused the others of not having to endure the full day of work in the hot sun, wherein they did.

The generosity of the landowner made some grateful, but others jealous and angry.

This may be compared to the thief hanging on the cross alongside of Jesus, who believed on Jesus at the very end of his life. He received the same eternal life as those that had served Jesus for many years.

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Mt 20:13. But he answered (and said to) one of them, and said, (Look), Friend, I do thee (or I am doing you) no wrong: (or I am not being unfair to you) didst (or did) not (or didn't) thou (or didn't you) agree with me (to work) (today) for a penny (or a denarius)?

Mt 20:13. But then the land owner said back to them. The **first word** he said was "friend." The landowner didn't get upset with them, even though he might be justified in doing do.

Rather, he spoke kindly to them in what appears to be a normal voice. He tried to show them the error of their thinking, even though their voices were of an unwarranted, accusing nature.

Second. He said to them, I do thee (or I am doing you) no wrong: (or I am not being unfair to you).

Third. Then he asked them a question. He said, did not you agree with me to work today for a penny or a denarius? What could they say? Yes, they had agreed to do a full day's work for a full day's wages.

However, if they would have agreed to leave it up to the owner, they might have received more, as some of the others did. The others trusted in the owner, while the first hired trusted in a set amount.

Would they have received more? It is unknown, because they did not do this.

Peter had asked, "What shall we have therefore?" The best is to leave it open-ended, and Jesus will award to all according to each person's works.

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Mt 20:14. Take that thine is (or take what is

Mt 20:14. Then the landowner told the

yours), (or now take your pay) and go thy (or your) way: (but) I will (or I wish to) (or I want to) (or choose to) give unto this last (man) (who was hired last), even (the same) as (or as much as I am) unto thee (or I'm giving you).

Mt 20:15. Is it not lawful for me (or don't I have the right) to do what I will (or wish) (or want) with (what is) mine own (money)? (or) Is thine (or your) eye evil (or envious), because I am good (or generous)?

workers that had accused him falsely to take their pay and go their way.

He then told them he will give to the last man the same as he will give to the first.

This story is speaking about those that choose to serve God. Some come to the Lord very early in life. They may serve God for 50 or more years.

Meanwhile, others may come to the Lord in the last year of their life. They may serve God only one year.

Yet they both will inherit the same eternal life.

Jesus paid the sin debt on the cross for all that surrender to Him and follow Him.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:14**, The land owner said: Take that thine is (or take what is yours), (or now take your pay) and go thy (or your) way: (but) I will (or I wish to) (or I want to) (or choose to) give unto this last (man) (who was hired last), even (the same) as (or as much as I am) unto thee (or I'm giving you).

Mt 20:15. The landowner continues speaking. He told his workers that had been complaining that it was right and correct for him to do whatever he wished with his own money. He was, in essence, saying to the complaining workers that they had no right to speak badly against him.

The landowner had paid everyone the same wage, but, in reality, he had given some exactly the right amount, but to others he had given them more than what they had worked for. No one was cheated by any means or in any way.

It is almost as if the ones that worked the full day wanted twelve days wages for one day's

work, as they had worked twelve times longer.

The landowner finished by saying to the complainers: Is not your eye or thinking evil, or wrong or envious, because that he (the landowner) was a good and generous person?

As already said, all that come to Jesus and do His will shall inherit eternal life. However, any person that comes to Jesus, but will not serve Him, shall perish. For it is written: Mal 3:18- Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

A person is called and given salvation by the blood of the Lamb through faith; however, the evidence of that faith is reflected by what a person does. The evidence of repentance is a changed life. No changed life, no evidence of repentance.

When the landowner came to see the work that the men did, if he did not see that they had worked in the field, then they would have been fired, not rewarded. If a person comes to Jesus, but does not read or hear God's Word, neither will they serve Him, but they continue in the ways of the world, then the evidence is they were unprofitable servants. They were illegitimate sons. They were lazy and disobedient. So it is that many are called but only a few will be chosen. So it is that many are positive they will be in heaven, but they will actually perish to hell. Such people may say to the Lord, "Lord, open to us," but He will say, "I never knew you"-Mt 7:23. Does this fit you?

Works do not save a person, it is faith in Christ. Our works for Jesus bring wages or, we may say, rewards.

But refusing to obey God's Word, that is, refusing to serve God and refusing to follow

Jesus, this will condemn us.

Case in point. Jesus sends to one of His servants many unsaved people. But God's servant, because of fear, will not witness to them. They are unprofitable servants. If a worker will not work, they can expect to be fired. Some teach otherwise. Ministers can expect to be judged more harshly than others.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:15**, Is it not lawful for me (or don't I have the right) to do what I will (or wish) (or want) with (what is) mine own (money)? (or) Is thine (or your) eye evil (or envious), because I am good (or generous)?

Additional commentary. Regarding rewards, it is written: 2 John 8-Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a **full reward**.

Col 3:24-Knowing that of the Lord **ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance**: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Understand that at the Judgment, if a debt is owed, it is a fixed amount. The Law is one thing. It is a lock, it is fixed.

Grace is another. But if it is **grace**, it is open-ended.

Rev 11:18-And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou **shouldest give reward unto thy servants** the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Mt 20:16. So (thus) the last shall be first, and the first (will be) last: for many be called, but few chosen.

Mt 20:16. There are four parts to this verse. Note that Matthew 19:30 says, **BUT MANY THAT ARE FIRST SHALL BE LAST; AND THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST.** Note the word "many."

We may say the majority.

Also the words first and last are reversed in Mt 20:16 compared with Mt 19:30.

Also Mt 22:14 uses the words: Few are chosen.

As the workmen received their wages **beginning at the ones that worked the least**, so at the Judgment those that were in Christ **-serving him the least amount of time shall be first.**

Then those that served Jesus the longest shall receive their rewards afterward. We may say, the wages are synonymous with rewards at the Judgment.

All the first and last receive the same wage, which is eternal life with the Lord. As it is written: SO SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD-1 Thes 4:17. There is no place among God's people for such things as jealousy.

The second part of the verse is, "For many be called, but few chosen." Many people are called by the Lord. Many people go to an altar and say a sinner's prayer.

The followers of many deceived Protestant and Roman Catholic churches are doomed to hell and the lake of fire, unless they also repent and obey the Bible.

All a person needs to do is begin studying their Bible in brokenness, and repentance, and humbleness seeking God. If their heart is right, God, through His Word, should reveal Himself to them more and more. All that profess Jesus should want to **devour His Word**—the Bible.

To live for the world is to perish with the world.

To live for Christ now is to be with Christ forever.

Jesus foretells of His crucifixion.

(Mt 20:17-19) (Ref Mk 10:32-34, Lk 18:31-34)

Mt 20:17. And (as) Jesus going up (or about to go up) to Jerusalem (or Yerushalayim) (He) took the twelve disciples (or talmidim) apart (or aside) (by themselves) in (or on) the way, and (He) said unto (or to) them.

(Ref Mt 20:17-19) (Mk 10:32-34) (Lk 18:31-34)

A truly saved person seeks to lead others to Christ, for they know that the person that is without Christ shall be tormented forever and ever in hell fire.

Note **Mt 20:16**. See Mt 25:13-30.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:16**, So (thus) the last shall be first, and the first (will be) last: for many be called, but few chosen.

Jesus foretells of His crucifixion.

(Mt 20:17-19) (Ref Mk 10:32-34, Lk 18:31-34)

Mt 20:17. Reportedly, the name of **JESUS** in Hebrew is **Joshua**, which means **Savior**.

The movements of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel may be summarized in these verses.

Mt 4:12-Jesus departed into the Galilee.

Mt 16:13-Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi.

Mt 17:24-They came to Capernaum, which is on the northwestern side of the Sea of Galilee.

Mt 19:1-Jesus came into the coasts of Judaea beyond the Jordan.

Mt 20:17-Jesus going up to Jerusalem in His final journey. He is heading in the direction of His being tortured and crucified.

Mt 21:1-They drew near to Jerusalem to Bethphage unto the Mount of Olives.

Mt 21:10-Jesus was come into Jerusalem.

Verses 17-28 are similar to Mk 10:32-34 and Luke 18:31-34.

The words "Jesus going up to Jerusalem" is referring to elevation.

The area of where the Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea is currently about 1300 feet below sea level. The highest place in Jerusalem is about 2600 feet above sea level.

Mt 20:18. Behold, we go up (or are now going up) to Jerusalem; and (where) the Son of man shall (or will) be betrayed (or delivered) (or handed over) unto (or to) the chief priests (or head cohanim) (and unto the scribes (or teachers of the law) (or Torah teachers), and they shall (or will) condemn him (or sentence him) to death.

Thus, Jesus would be going up in elevation about 3900 feet.

Down in the Jordan Valley the temperature is usually mild or warm. Jerusalem can be very cold at times, but very nice at other times. Jerusalem can also have snow during the winter.

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem to be crucified, He took His twelve disciples apart by themselves. Then He spoke to them.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:17**, And (as) Jesus going up (or about to go up) to Jerusalem (or Yerushalayim) (He) took the twelve disciples (or talmidim) apart (or aside) (by themselves) in (or on) the way, and (He) said unto (or to) them,

Mt 20:18. Jesus is now speaking. He tells His followers that they are now going to go up to Jerusalem. In other words, the time has now arrived.

An outstanding view of Jerusalem is from several viewing areas on the Mount of Olives and other adjoining mountains also.

As one goes up to Jerusalem from the Jordan River side or from Jericho, it is a steady uphill drive. It is about 15 miles. It can be walked in about 8 hours.

Going up to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv (which is sea level), the uphill drive is not as noticeable.

Jesus knew all things before they happen. He is God, and the Bible is His Word.

Jesus was telling those with Him that He was going to be betrayed and handed over into the hands of the chief priests and scribes.

He told those with Him that they shall sentence Him to death. Satan had not yet entered into Judas to betray Jesus. That would not happen until about 2 days before He would be crucified. At this time, it was doubtful that Judas had any kind of thought about betraying Jesus. He would afterward become the most famous traitor in the history of the world and would ultimately commit suicide. The area where he hung himself (the Valley of Hinnom) can be easily seen from the wall or street of Jerusalem on the southside.

No man could really convey the torture Jesus was going to go through.

He was going to be marred worse than any man-ref Isa 52:14. He was going to be beaten, over and over, so badly that it may be said that His body and face would barely look human.

Marred means a disfiguring damage.

The fact that He was able to speak after His horrendous and horrifying flogging, and torture, and physical abuse could be said to be a miracle.

Isa 52:14-As many were astonished (or astonished) at thee; his visage (or appearance) was so marred (or horribly beaten) more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.

It may be said His body and face looked like a truck had run over Him.

However, as all true Christians should know, what He was to do was to make a way for sinful mankind to not be condemned to hell, but to receive eternal life, **IF** they would repent and obey His Word.

Understand that many are absolutely positive

Mt 20:19. And shall (or will) deliver (or turn) him (over) to the Gentiles (or Goyim) to mock (or to be mocked) (or jeer at him), and to scourge (or flogged) (or beat him), and to crucify (or execute) him (or to be crucified) (on a stake as a criminal): and (or but) (on) the third day he shall (or will) rise (or be raised) (or raised up) again (to life).

they will be in heaven when they die; yet, they will not obey His Word and follow Him, so they perish. But no man can tell them this, as their eyes are closed, and their ears are dull of hearing. No one can convince most people that unless they repent, they shall all likewise perish-ref Mt 7:22-27; Acts 28:27.

So most people live as they wish and believe they will go to a better place when they die, but they do not. Nearly all people do perish.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:18**, Behold, we go up (or are now going up) to Jerusalem; and (where) the Son of man shall (or will) be betrayed (or delivered) (or handed over) unto (or to) the chief priests (or head cohanim) (and unto the scribes (or teachers of the law) (or Torah teachers), and they shall (or will) condemn him (or sentence him) to death.

Mt 20:19. Jesus continues telling those with Him of what lies ahead. He told them that those that will arrest Him shall turn Him over to the Gentiles. At that time, Israel was ruled by the Gentiles from Rome. Pilate was a Roman. The soldiers were Romans. Thus, both the Jews and the Romans (or Gentiles) were guilty in the death of Jesus.

And these would mock Him, and beat Him, and then would crucify Him. Jesus showed that He would die. But then Jesus told them something that would have been nearly impossible to understand at that time.

He told them that on the third day He would return to life again.

Again, those involved in His death were the:
chief priests,
the scribes,
the Jews,
and the Gentiles.

Jesus came to save the world, but the world did not want Him to reign over them. Even so, it is today, which is confirmed by the extremely low percentage of people that daily read and obey His Word.

In a certain survey conducted, the average number of people that appear to read their Bible and obey it worldwide is less than **ONE OUT OF EVERY 234**.

One must wonder if, after His disciples were told He would die, that they even heard the words about being resurrected.

Yes, the disciples had seen Jesus raise the dead. They had seen Him heal all kinds of sickness. They had seen Him heal even blind people.

But to think He, Himself, could be dead for three days and then come back to life might have been difficult for them to comprehend.

Regarding the words that Jesus spoke about His coming arrest, being mocked, being beaten, and then crucified, but then rising again, these words were not understood. Lk 18:34-And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Jesus had previously spoken of His crucifixion in Mt 16:21, which was about 8 months previously, and in Mt 17:22, 23, which appears to have been a short time after.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:19**, And shall (or will) deliver (or turn) him (over) to the Gentiles (or Goyim) to mock (or to be mocked) (or jeer at him), and to scourge (or flogged) (or beat him), and to crucify (or execute) him (or to be crucified) (on a stake as a criminal): and (or but) (on) the third day he shall (or will) rise (or be

Chronologically, Mt 20:19 goes to Mk 10:32.

Mk 10:32 goes to Mk 10:34.

Mk 10:34 goes to Lk 18:31.

Lk 18:31 goes to Lk 18:34.

Lk 18:34 goes to Mt 20:20.

(Mt 20:20 to 28) (Ref Mk 10:35 to 45)

Mt 20:20. Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children (or sons) with her sons, (or sons of Zebedee) worshiping him (or kneeling down) (or bowed down), and desiring (or asking) a certain thing (or favor) (or making a request) of (or from) him.

(Ref Mt 20:20-28) (Mk 10:35-45)

Mt 20:21. And he said unto her (or asked), What wilt thou (or what do you wish) (or what is it you want) (or what do you want) (He asked)? She saith (or said) (or replied) unto (or to) him, Grant (or command) (or promise that when you become king) that these my two sons (of mine) (or one of these two sons of mine) may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other (or one) on

raised) (or raised up) again (to life).

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Lk 18:34 goes to Mt 20:20.

(Mt 20:20 to 28) (Ref Mk 10:35 to 45)

Mt 20:20. The mother of James and John came to Jesus. Her name was Salome. James and John were with her at this time.

She knelt or bowed down worshiping Jesus. It appears James and John did the same. She and her two sons came because they desired to ask Jesus a favor. Because they had their mother with them, one wonders if it was meant to put pressure on Jesus regarding their request.

The time period remains at approximately 41 months into the ministry of Jesus.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:20**, Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children (or sons) with her sons, (or sons of Zebedee) worshiping him (or kneeling down) (or bowed down), and desiring (or asking) a certain thing (or favor) (or making a request) of (or from) him.

Mt 20:21. Jesus then spoke to the mother of James and John. He knew in advance what she would ask. They, at this point, should have known that, but it appears they did not. Her request was to be a selfish one.

He asked her what did she want. She asked Jesus to promise her, when He would become

the (or your) left, in thy (or your) kingdom.

King, that her two sons could sit on His right hand and the other on the left.

At this time, and even after the Resurrection, the disciples did not understand that the Kingdom, in which Jesus would reign as the King of kings, was not to be for a long, long time. Note Acts 1:6, 7 after the Resurrection. The disciples asked Jesus, WILT THOU AT THIS TIME RESTORE AGAIN THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL? Jesus replied, IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TIMES OR SEASONS WHICH THE FATHER HATH PUT IN HIS OWN POWER.

For her to ask God to promise her something special for her sons seems very presumptuous and out of place, and perhaps even a bit disrespectful. It certainly seems to have come from pride and selfishness. They didn't understand at this time that in order to be the greatest, they needed to become the least.

This same problem exists in the churches of this last generation also.

As it is written in Prov 16:18-19-Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

The people expected that Jesus would eventually go to Jerusalem and reign and rule over Israel as their king.

They (the people) had no idea that this was not why Jesus came. They had no idea that Jesus would go to Jerusalem and be crucified for the sins of all that would repent and trust in Him, both then and many generations later.

They had no idea that approximately 2000 years would pass after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which could be

summarized into 7 church ages. They had no idea that each church age would be different in their length and characteristics.

They (the people at the time of Jesus) had no idea that the age of the churches would come to an end with what the Bible calls the "translation" or "caught up." This is commonly referred to as the "Rapture," which is a word not used in the King James Bible.

The people had no idea that a false church, which would seduce millions and millions of people, would arise. This false church, which biblically would be called Jezebel, would call herself a prophetess. This false church would have an almost hypnotic effect on many people. They had no clue that this false church would be destroyed by fire around the midst of the Tribulation by the Antichrist. This is what we now know today as the Roman Catholic Church. None from this false church will be raptured, no, not one person.

As one might say, there are none so blind as those that will not, and cannot, and refuse to see.

They (the people at the time of Jesus) had no idea that there would be elements of the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th church ages present when the Rapture comes.

They had no idea that following the Rapture there would be a horrible period called the Tribulation, in which about one half of the world's population would die. They had no idea that the son of Satan, called the "Antichrist," would come forth, making himself out to be the "Christ."

The people knew Jesus would one day return after He ascended up to heaven; HOWEVER, they had no idea that 7 church ages had to

come to pass, and it would not be for about 2000 years.

Back in Mt 19:28, it was reported that Jesus had spoken about His disciples sitting on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

Regarding the time of the return of Jesus, we now understand that it is close. The reason we know this is that Israel has become a nation again after about 2000 years. However, Israel is not ready for the return of Jesus. That will change when Russia and many nations come against Israel during the beginning of the Tribulation. The God that Russia does not believe exists will step in and destroy them. They will be buried there.

So what lies ahead is this.

We are now in the latter days.

Next, we expect another Middle East war that Israel will again win.

Sometime after that, we expect the Rapture to take place. However, far, far fewer people will be taken than most expect. This event should happen soon.

Many that are positive they will be raptured will be left behind, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us. We prophesied in your name, we cast out devils in your name, we did many wonderful works in your name." The reply of Jesus is that He never knew them, and the reason was that they had continued to work iniquity. They had not truly repented and followed God's Word-ref Mt 7:22,23.

Lukewarm Christians (those from the Laodicean church) will not be taken in the Rapture. "Do nothing" Christians will not be taken-ref Rev 3:14-22. However, the few that truly have repented and followed Jesus will be taken.

Mt 20:22. But Jesus answered and said, Ye (or you) know not (or do not) (or don't know) what ye ask (or are asking for). (Jesus said to them) Are ye (or you) able to (or can you) drink of the cup that I shall (or am about to) (or I am going to) drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able (or we can they answered).

Following the Tribulation, Jesus returns at the time of Armageddon. He will then reign as the Lord of lords, and King of kings for 1000 years. This is the time period verse 21 speaks of.

As already alluded to, the people expected, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, that He would become the King. They did not understand He had to die, be resurrected, and ascend up to heaven, but then return about 2000 years later at the time of the Battle of Armageddon to keep the world from destroying all life.

Man has a difficult time understanding that to be great in the eyes of God is to be the most servant-minded of all. Selfish requests are just that. They are self-centered requests, not Christ-centered requests.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:21**, And he said unto her (or asked), What wilt thou (or what do you wish) (or what is it you want) (or what do you want) (He asked)? She saith (or said) (or replied) unto (or to) him, Grant (or command) (or promise that when you **become king**) that these my two sons (of mine) (or one of these two sons of mine) may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other (or one) on the (or your) left, in thy (or your) kingdom.

Mt 20:22. Jesus responded to the mother of the Zebedee's children telling her that she did not know or understand what she was asking for. People do not want the cup of sufferings. They want the cup of being blessed.

And so it is in this last church age. Ministers, to our knowledge, have found if they preach you shall be blessed if you give us money, then the giving may go up. If they preach repentance, fearing and obeying God, and read your Bible, then the giving may go down, down, down. And when this happens, they may have problems paying their radio, television, or

internet bills, and church payments.

Consider the following. The greatest rewards, or glory, or positions of authority can be expected to be to those that:

devour God's Word,
obey God's Word without questioning or complaining,
or that suffer the most for Christ
and serve Him with a childlike, humble, God-fearing attitude.

Those that serve Jesus that are "but-ers" are making a mistake. People that say, but, but, but are excuse-makers.

A "but-er" is a person that when they are told what to do, they often have an excuse or a "**but**" with a condition attached.

They may say:

"But" I don't think it is important.

"But" can't I do it another way?

"But" can't I do it tomorrow?

"But" can't I have someone else do it?

Even more than that, the people at that time were mostly illiterate when it came to the future.

There was no New Testament. It did not exist yet.

The copies of what we call the Old Testament (that is, the scrolls) were usually not in the hands of any, except the synagogues, scribes, and rabbis.

Many people could not read.

All most people knew was what they heard from the rabbis in the synagogues, regarding the Scriptures, this was only once a week on the Sabbath day.

Thus, many of the people were what we call

somewhat biblically illiterate.

Consider the following as we take a little detour.

Just a note regarding right now. Most people are very biblically illiterate. How many people can quote any Bible verses at all, although some may quote John 3:16. Some churches use no scripture at all, but only philosophy. Who would have ever thought that many so-called Bible-believing churches would become worldly storytelling churches, and the Bible would be ignored? Who would have ever thought that some so-called preachers on the radio and television would ignore the Bible completely, and yet people would financially support them with much money?

Jesus then asked the people a question. He said: Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? The answer of course is, yes.

The people answered Him by saying that they were able to drink of the cup that He was to drink of, and they were able to be baptized with that baptism He was baptized with.

However, the cup that Jesus was about to partake of was the most brutal beating and torture one might ever conceive. It would be unleashed by the religious establishment under the direction of the devil working through his followers.

As Jesus was proceeding to Golgotha, people would have been trying to hit Him.

The raw hatred of Satan was poured out upon Jesus, as He carried His cross to Golgotha outside the city gate.

They would have been spitting on Him. They would have been using the most abusive language possible. Then He was hung on the cross with stakes punched through his hands and feet. His body would have been pulverized from the people along the pathway trying to strike Him in any way they could.

Jesus would be marred worse than any man. His appearance would be such that He would have barely looked human. His human form was so brutalized under the incredible punishment that He endured. As it is written: His appearance was marred MORE than ANY MAN-ref Isa 52:14.

How he was ever able to speak at all is a miracle.

And then being hung on the cross and slowly bleeding to death, as He gasped for breath from hanging on the cross. Reportedly, He had to push upward with His legs, with nails through His feet, in order to keep breathing.

Yes, it ended in victory, but before the victory, there was torture, and more torture, and excruciating pain.

People would be astonished. This He did for those that would place their trust in Him, **not by word only**, such as a sinner's prayer, but in **repentance**, in **trust**, in **deed**, and in **truth**. God's Word commands those that follow Him to repent and be baptized everyone.

Indeed, reportedly 11 of the 12 apostles would ultimately die a violent death. Only John would not. He would write the Revelation on the Isle of Patmos.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:22**, But Jesus answered and said, Ye (or you) know not (or do not) (or don't know) what ye ask (or are asking

Mt 20:23. And he (Jesus) (or Yeshua) saith (or said) unto them, (Yes) Ye (or you) shall (or will) drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, (this) is not mine to give (or grant), but it (or these places) shall be given to (or belong to those) (or it is for) them for whom it is (or has been) prepared of (or by) my Father.

for). (Jesus said to them) Are ye (or you) able to (or can you) drink of the cup that I shall (or am about to) (or I am going to) drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able (or we can they answered).

Mt 20:23. Jesus began to answer the question that He was asked.

Drinking of the cup of Jesus is speaking of communion. This we do in remembrance of Jesus, because He is not with us in the physical sense, but rather in the Spirit.

Drinking of the cup of Jesus **can also refer to** going through some of the difficulties and persecutions, and suffering that Jesus would go through.

While all that follow Jesus do go through persecutions, those in the Middle East, and in some Moslem countries, and other countries may suffer horribly, such as electric shock to their genitals and slow torture.

Nevertheless, it is written: Ro 8:17,18-And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Jesus mentioned being baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with. This took place at Pentecost, when the cloven tongues came and lighted upon them.

Yet God's Word commands a person to repent and be baptized. This baptism is buried with Jesus in water baptism after repentance. This is the baptism that John the Baptist did.

Jesus Himself was baptized by John.

This baptism is to be done **AFTER** repentance and believing in Jesus. It is going down into the water, being fully immersed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and then coming out into the newness of life.

Note Acts 2:1-4-And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Regarding who shall sit where, when Jesus reigns as the King of kings and Lord of lords on the earth during the Millennium, Jesus says it is not His decision. That decision belongs to His Father, which is in heaven, as to who would sit on His right hand and on His left.

This is speaking of the **Millennium** reign of Jesus Christ. He shall reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords for 1000 years.

God the Father is over Jesus. It is God the Father that directs where Jesus should be and what He is to do.

The Godhead consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Although not mentioned here, all that follow Jesus are commanded to be baptized by full immersion also. Churches that do sprinkling baptism are not, **that needs repeating**, they are NOT walking in the truth of the Bible and their understanding of the Bible is not light, but is darkness.

Those that go to churches that do sprinkling and infant baptisms are in darkness even as their pastors are in darkness. However, darkness blinds a person, so they do not understand or see they are going to perish, except they repent of that darkness. Jesus was baptized by full immersion. All that followed Jesus were baptized by full immersion. And all that follow Jesus today are to be baptized by full immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, even as it is written in Mt 28:19.

Who will sit on the right and left hand of Jesus is not given. It is the Father that shall decide this.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:23**, And he (Jesus) (or Yeshua) saith (or said) unto them, (Yes) Ye (or you) shall (or will) drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, (this) is not mine to give (or grant), but it (or these places) shall be given to (or belong to those) (or it is for) them for whom it is (or has been) prepared of (or by) my Father.

Mt 20:24. And when the (other) ten heard it (or hearing this) (or heard about this), they were moved with indignation (or became or were indignant) (or became outraged) against (or with) (or at) the two brethren (or brothers).

Mt 20:24. When the ten heard it refers to Jesus saying to the two (which was James and John and their mother, "Ye know not what ye ask," and also, "it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father."

James and John are mentioned together about 14 times.

The ten brethren got mad at the two brethren. There was a division between the disciples.

It has also been suggested that perhaps the other ten were upset that they had not thought of this request for themselves.

Satan stirs up within us all evil thoughts against our fellow brethren. The Baptists may be against those of the Assembly of God and vice versa are just two examples. The church on this corner may speak against the church on the next corner, yet they both may follow God's Word, or at least claim to.

Among the apostles, were there ever any problems? Yes. Were some disciples against or angry with Paul? Yes.

Love is the fulfilling of the law, yet how easily many forget this-Ro 13:10. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another-ref Jn 13:35.

The Bible warns us 8 times about being angry with your brother without a cause. Often when a person gets angry with their brother, the cause is a misunderstanding that Satan has stirred up.

If you are angry with a fellow born again Christian, be careful, less you falsely accuse them. If there is a matter of misunderstanding, go and ask the person regarding the matter, and do not accuse.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:24**, And when the (other) ten heard it (or hearing this) (or heard about this), they were moved with indignation (or became or were indignant) (or became outraged) against (or with) (or at) the two brethren (or brothers).

Mt 20:25. But Jesus (or Yeshua) called them (together) unto him (or himself), and said, Ye (or you) know that the princes (or rulers) of the Gentiles (or Goyim) exercise dominion (or lord it) over them (or become tyrants), and they that are great (or their great men) (or their high officials) exercise authority (or become

Mt 20:25. Jesus called the disciples together, so they came to Him. Some followers of Jesus soon learn how easily Satan can stir up a person's emotions over various things and situations, and desires by putting lying, and half truth thoughts into our mind.

dictators) upon (or over) them.

Jesus knowing all things, then began to address what was being said and what was happening.

He began to show how the ways of the rulers, and great men, and influential people can be.

They can lord it over people.

They can become tyrants.

They can exercise their authority over people.

They can become dictators.

They exercise dominion over people.

Authority can sometimes go to people's heads. Power can corrupt people's minds. Pride can easily consume people that are in positions of power and authority.

Authority means the power to make decisions.

Also the right to command or determine things.

Also the right to give permission.

Such was the case of the scribes and Pharisees, which loved the authority they had. They loved to walk about in market places or other places where people assembled. They would wear fancy clothes. They loved to be greeted by the people. As one might say, they held their head high with pride, instead of low with humility.

Jesus offers freedom. The world's religions usually offer bondage

As it has been said in **Mt 20:25**, But Jesus (or Yeshua) called them (together) unto him (or himself), and said, Ye (or you) know that the princes (or rulers) of the Gentiles (or Goyim) exercise dominion (or lord it) over them (or become tyrants), and they that are great (or their great men) (or their high officials) exercise authority (or become dictators) upon (or over) them.

Mt 20:26. But it shall not be so (or it is not so) (or it must not be like that among (or with) you: but (instead) (or on the contrary) whosoever (or whoever) (among you) will be (or wishes to be) (or wants to become) **great** among you (or your leader), let him be your **minister** (or your servant);

Mt 20:26. However, Jesus was not this way. He humbled Himself. He became a servant. He gave His very life as a ransom for many. Jesus tells His followers that they are to be the same way as He was. As He was, so are those that follow Jesus to be. Becoming more and more a servant with humbleness, these will be the greatest. God's true ministers are servants.

The follower of Jesus that seeks to be great is to become a servant that brings forth the Word of God. He is to minister to the people. And if he seeks to be greater, then he is to be a servant of servants.

Regretfully, the nature of man wants to be "something great, something exalted," even as the scribes and Pharisees were.

Yet the follower of Christ is to be a servant of the people. He is to lead by being an example of Christ, Who gave His very life for the people.

This (being a humble servant) is very contrary to the ways of the world. This is very different from how the scribes and priests were.

Those that wish to be great are to be a minister that
ministers to people,
teaches people,
helps people,
serves the people,
advises people, and
guides people,
and confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

Satan's ministers, that is, counterfeit ministers, try to look like real ministers. However, inside their heart is far different. These also
minister to people,
teach people,

help people,
serve people,
advise people,
and guide the people,
but these things are more in line with the ways
of the world and not the ways of Jesus.

Also, they do not confess that Jesus Christ is
come in the flesh-ref 1 Jn 4:2.

Asking them if they believe Jesus Christ is
come in the flesh is not what the Bible seems to
be saying. No prompting should be needed. It
is what they should be proclaiming.

A person may say, it is a rare minister that
ever confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the
flesh. Yes, that is right, and that is a sign of
how few do this.

This author does, indeed, confess that Jesus
Christ is come in the flesh.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:26**, But it shall not
be so (or it is not so) (or it must not be like that
among (or with) you: but (instead) (or on the
contrary) whosoever (or whoever) (among you)
will be (or wishes to be) (or wants to become)
great among you (or your leader), let him be
your minister (or your servant);

Mt 20:27. And whosoever (or whoever) will be
(or wishes to be) (or wants to be a) chief (or
first) (or a **leader**) among you, let him be (or
shall be) (or must be) your servant (or slave):

Mt 20:27. This verse is an extension of the
previous one. It also relates to what the mother
of Zebedee's children desired back in verse 20
and 21, regarding her two sons sitting on the
right hand and left hand of Jesus in His
kingdom.

Now in verse 27, it speaks of the person that
wants to be the chief or leader, he is to become
the servant or slave, thus, a chief servant.

In other words, the higher a person wants to
be, the lower they must become. Unlike
following the world, the person that is a minister

should be the most humble, the most broken, and certainly never an example of worldly excess and riches, as is the case of many today. Regretfully, some actually boast of their money, their beautiful home, their expensive cars, and their vast empire of things.

Some of the world's great ministers in this last, deceived generation before Jesus "catches up" his few servants, usually drive great, very expensive cars, and have great, expensive houses, but this is not biblical. Most ministers of this last church generation have a very shallow view or understanding of God's Word. And those that hear them also have a very shallow understanding of God's Word.

What riches did Jesus have on this earth? What riches did the apostles have on this earth? How did the life of Jesus end? It was on the cross. How did the lives of the apostles end? Most died from being martyred and had few possessions.

Biblically, a follower of Jesus should live humbly and not have an excessive salary. One might say, that few ministers and television ministers seem to be as the Word of God describes. And what is God's description of this last church age before the "caught up" comes? It is WRETCHED, MISERABLE, POOR, BLIND, AND NAKED-Rev 3:17. Many are biblically ignorant.

Consider this. Two of the ministers on television that appear to take in the most money, seem to preach no Bible at all, only philosophy. And the biblically illiterate people that listen to their teaching, send them millions of dollars. Truly, this generation is biblically wretched. And God's Word confirms this, as, when the Rapture comes, a huge number of people that are absolutely positive they will be raptured, will be left behind. The Bible uses the

Mt 20:28. Even (or just) as (or for) the Son of man came not (or did not come) to be ministered unto (or to be served), but to minister (or serve), and to give his life (as) a ransom for many.

word "many."

It has been suggested that the proper biblical salary for a minister should be this.

Whatever the income of secular people is in the same type of position and, we may say, in the same area, the lowest 10% would be the minister's income.

Jesus came to give His very life a ransom for those that would believe on Him. Jesus came to serve.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:27**, And whosoever (or whoever) will be (or wishes to be) (or wants to be a) chief (or first) (or a leader) among you, let him be (or shall be) (or must be) your servant (or slave):

Mt 20:28. This verse is a continuation of the previous one. Jesus is giving an example of the way a person that desired to be the chief was to be. The higher he wants to be, the smaller he must become.

The essence of greatness from God's view is to be more and more humble.

A person that wishes to be great is to be the most broken and the most giving. He ultimately may become the most persecuted.

The one that wants to be the greatest needs to have the deepest understanding of God's Word, and be an example of God's Word, even as Jesus is God's Word and as such is an example of the Father. Jn 14:9-Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

The greatest example of God's Word was

Chronologically, Mt 20:28 goes to Mk 10:35.

Time period is 41 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Mk 10:35 goes to Mk 10:45.

Mk 10:45 goes to Mt 20:29.

(Mt 20:29-34) (Mk 10-46-52) (Lk 18:35-43)

Mt 20:29. And as they (Jesus and his disciples) departed (or were going out) (or were leaving) from Jericho (or Yericho), a great (or huge) multitude (or crowd) followed him or (Yeshua).

(

God's Word itself---it is Jesus, Who is the Living Word, Who came in the flesh and was an example of the Father. As it is written-John 1:1- In the beginning was the **word** (Jesus is the Word) and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word was God.**

Pride needs to be crucified. Brokenness and humbleness, that is, humility is needed. Serving is the centerpiece of being a servant, not pride. Serving is the centerpiece of a minister that follows Jesus, even death on a cross.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:28**, Even (or just) as (or for) the Son of man came not (or did not come) to be ministered unto (or to be served), but to minister (or serve), and to give his life (as) a ransom for many.

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Mt 20:29. Jesus and His disciples were now in the area of Jericho. There continued to be a great number of people that followed Him along with His disciples. It is possible that it was not very far from Jericho (the western side toward Jerusalem) that Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

During the days of Jesus, reportedly, there were two Jerichos. One was reportedly a Roman city, the other was a Herodion city, which is where Zacchaeus was called.

One was on the "tel" which means hill. The other was nearby.

Today, there are still two Jerichos.

One is ancient Jericho, the partially excavated city on the "tel" or hill, and the other is a more modern Jericho which is a bit east of there. Jericho is just west of where the Jordan River enters into the Dead Sea.

Regarding the excavated Jericho, many Israeli tours visit this location. Twenty successive settlements have been found there. The temperature can reach over 120 degrees in late spring. Excavations are ongoing.

We have personally seen 123 degrees there. It is a dry heat, as there is little humidity. To stand out in the sun for very long at these temperatures is dangerous, as one might collapse.

Then there is the modern city. It is nearby the tel or ancient city and is known as the city of palm trees. It is not far from where the Jordan River enters the Dead Sea. It is administered by the Fatah faction of the Palestinian National Authority. It's population is approximately 18,400 and is also an interesting place to visit.

Jericho is mentioned about 64 times in the Scriptures. It is first mentioned in the Bible in Numbers 22:1. Many should know the song "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho."

As the Jordan River flows south and downward in elevation from the Sea of Galilee, many farmers use some of the water for irrigation. By the time it reaches the Dead Sea, the river is only about 15 feet wide and very muddy.

The place John the Baptist baptized was in the Jordan River. It would have been in a convenient place where the people of Jerusalem and surrounding areas could get to, even though it would have been about a fifteen mile walk. There is such a place, but it is not visited by regular Israeli tours. The Jordan River waters are very muddy at that location. To get to it, one must walk through a wooded area.

The place most sightseeing tours take a person to be baptized is just south of where the Sea of Galilee enters into the southern part of the Jordan River. This is not close to where John would have been baptizing.

Jesus was continuing His journey toward Jerusalem in the Jericho area. A huge crowd was following Him and His disciples.

As one walks from the Sea of Galilee to Jericho, they are traveling south. They are traveling down the Jordan River Valley toward the city of Jericho and the Dead Sea.

Then, to go from Jericho to Jerusalem, one turns to a somewhat western direction that goes from around 825 feet below sea level to about 2500 feet above sea level.

Sometimes, when the Bible speaks of a great multitude, it can mean around 5000 men, plus women and children.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:29**, And as they (Jesus and his disciples) departed (or were going out) (or were leaving) from Jericho (or Yericho), a great (or huge) multitude (or crowd) followed him or (Yeshua).

Mt 20:30. And, behold, two blind men (were) sitting by the way side (or side of the road) (or roadside), (and) when they heard (or hearing)

Mt 20:30. Two blind men were sitting by the side of the road. One of them is identified as blind Bartimaeus in Mk 11:46. They were

that Jesus passed by (or was passing by) (or was going by) (they) cried out (or shouted), saying, Have mercy (or pity) on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

begging for help from those that were passing by. Mark and Luke spoke only of the one.

It has been said, the two can represent Israel and Judah receiving their sight.

The two blind men could not see with their eyes, but they could see with their heart, regarding Jesus.

Israel and the religious leaders could see with their eyes, but much of their heart regarding Jesus was blindness.

The two blind men had no way to earn money for food or anything else.

In Israel, even now, there can be seen people begging for help in Jerusalem. Some may be missing arms or legs. Some may be sitting on a small platform with wheels which is how they are able to get round.

The reputation of Jesus and the miracles He did and the words He preached had reached far and wide in Israel. It was now more than about 41 months since Jesus had begun His ministry.

By this time, Jesus had done so many miracles that it would probably take many volumes of books to describe them. The numbers of people that followed Him (as judged from the feedings of multitudes) appears to have numbered more than 5000 men, plus women and children at various times.

The two blind men could hear the commotion, which was a result of Jesus passing by. They cried out or shouted probably as loud as they could: "Have mercy (or pity) on us, O Lord, thou Son of David." In using these words, they were recognizing that Jesus was the expected Messiah. He was the King of Israel. He was the One that the prophets had prophesied

would one day come, and now He was here.

(Israel crying out to God)

The two blind men crying out for help can be symbolic of Israel crying out for help during the soon coming Tribulation.

At that time, Russia and many allies will overwhelm Israel (at the beginning of the Tribulation)-ref Ezek 38 and 39. Israel seemingly has no hope. They are being destroyed. So they turn in desperation to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Who they had rejected. Up to this time, since Israel had become a nation again, many in Israel had turned to homosexuality, one of the greatest abominations in the Bible. For example, today on Gay Pride Day in Tel Aviv, nearly every business and store appears to display a Gay Pride flag. During the Tribulation, as they are being destroyed for their sins, they have no where to turn, except to God. Jesus hears them in their total desperation, even as Jesus hears the cries of the two blind men.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:30**, And, behold, two blind men (were) sitting by the way side (or side of the road) (or roadside), (and) when they heard (or hearing) that Jesus passed by (or was passing by) (or was going by) (they) cried out (or shouted), saying, Have mercy (or pity) on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

Mt 20:31. And the multitude (or crowd) (sternly) rebuked (or told) (or scolded) them (and told them to be quiet), because they should hold their peace (or be quiet): but they cried (or shouted) (all) the more (or louder), saying, (Lord) Have mercy (or pity) on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

Mt 20:31. As the two blind men continued to cry out, loudly and continuously, people in the crowd scolded them and told them to be quiet. In English terms, they were probably told, "Shut up and be quiet!" After all, as the people followed Jesus, if He would say anything, all would probably want to try to hear His words.

Even today, as a repentant sinner may cry out to Jesus, people around them may tell them to shut up. "Jesus can't help you," they may say.

No one really suspected what was going to come to pass in Jerusalem, except Jesus and some of His followers. He had been telling them what to expect. That is, that Jesus would be arrested, tortured, and then be horribly crucified. As it turned out, even His face would be so brutalized that it may have looked like a truck ran over it.

Jesus came to save men from their sin, but mankind wanted to kill God.

And even today, is it so different? No, it is not. How many people across the entire world, at any given time, are cursing the name of Jesus? How many are attaching the word "damn" with the name of God?

What bad thing did Jesus ever do to warrant so much hatred, even today, when it comes to the name of Jesus?

The proof that the devil exists and is in the hearts of most of humanity is just look around. Note some people around you. Look at the news. Listen to a person's speech.

The one who damns is Satan, that is, the devil; yet, why is it that it seems no one ever uses the devil's name as a curse word? How is it that there are many verses of Scripture regarding Satan, but how many times do you ever hear them being taught in the churches?

Oh, how blind many, many preachers, rabbi, and priests are, yet because they are blind, they cannot discern their own spiritual blindness. Not only do most of humanity perish because of blindness, but also most clergy do as well.

The two blind men would not be silenced, even though a multitude was telling them or

Mt 20:32 And Jesus (or Yeshua) stood still (or stopped), and called them, and said, What will ye (or what do you want) (me) that I shall (or should) do unto (or for) you?

scolding them. This was probably because their yelling could be heard even above the noise of the crowd. Their loud shouting or pleading for mercy rang out.

Their words, "O Lord, thou son of David" was an acknowledgment that they believed that this was the Messiah, and they were not timid about saying it. Regretfully, all too many in the churches today are like Christians when in the church, but outside, they are the opposite.

Case in point, as I recall. On visiting a certain Bible-teaching church, this author sat outside as the people left. As I recall, not one person was speaking of the Bible teaching that was done from the pulpit. It was as if they heard him, but they heard him not. Such seems to be the situation when some people open their Bibles.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:31**, And the multitude (or crowd) (sternly) rebuked (or told) (or scolded) them (and told them to be quiet), because they should hold their peace (or be quiet): but they cried (or shouted) (all) the more (or louder), saying, (Lord) Have mercy (or pity) on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

Mt 20:32. The two blind men had kept calling out. Their only possible hope of receiving their sight was so close. They must have had some help from the crowd in finding their way.

Their humble, broken attitude and persistence finally paid off. Although Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, their faith and persistence caused Him to stop. It is written, Heb 11:6-But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Then He called them. When they had come to

Mt 20:33. They say (or said) (or answered) unto him, Lord, (we want) that our eyes may be opened (or we want our sight) (or open our eyes).

Mt 20:34. So Jesus had (or moved with) (or had) compassion (or tenderness) on them, and (Jesus) touched their eyes: and immediately (or instantly) their eyes received (or regained their) sight, and they followed him.

Jesus, He asked them regarding what they wanted Him to do for them. Of course, He already knew, and He knew what they would say.

One can imagine as their heart must have been overwhelmed with thankfulness that Jesus had noticed them, even amongst the huge crowd of people.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:32**, And Jesus (or Yeshua) stood still (or stopped), and called them, and said, What will ye (or what do you want) (me) that I shall (or should) do unto (or for) you?

Mt 20:33. They said, this is referring to the two blind men. At first, they had asked for mercy.

Jesus had stopped. He had called them. Their heart was probably racing. How long they had been blind or how it had happened is not mentioned.

Then they answered Jesus by telling Him that they wanted their eyes to open. They wanted to be able to see.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:33**, They say (or said) (or answered) unto him, Lord, (we want) that our eyes may be opened (or we want our sight) (or open our eyes).

Mt 20:34. When Jesus had heard their request, He was moved with **compassion** on them.

The huge crowd was watching to see what would happen.

Then Jesus touched their eyes. Even as He touched them, "instantly" their eyes could see. It didn't take hours or days for their eyes to

regain their sight. One can imagine their shouts of joy. The impossible had happened. Two blind men could now see.

The miracles that no human being had ever done authenticated the words that Jesus spoke. A person could in no way deny the many miracles. Thus, how could they deny the words that Jesus spoke, which no man had ever spoken? The hatred of the Jewish religious community toward Jesus was huge. His teachings often ran counter to their teachings. And the crowds that followed Jesus were very large. The more wonderful works Jesus did, the more the scribes and Pharisees seemed to hate Him.

When Jesus was at Lazarus' tomb some acknowledged that Jesus had indeed enabled the blind to see. As it is written, Jn 11:37-And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

The verse ends with the words: They followed Him. The two blind men after being healed followed Jesus, as He was heading up to Jerusalem to be crucified.

As it has been said in **Mt 20:34**, So Jesus had (or moved with) (or had) compassion (or tenderness) on them, and (Jesus) touched their eyes: and immediately (or instantly) their eyes received (or regained their) sight, and they followed him.

Chronologically, Mt 20:34 goes to Mk 10:46.

Mk 10:46 goes to Mk 10:52.

Mk 10:52 goes to Lk 18:35.

Lk 18:35 goes to Lk 18:43.

Chronologically, Mt 20:34 goes to Mk 10:46.

Mk 10:46 goes to Mk 10:52.

Mk 10:52 goes to to Lk 18:35.

Lk 18:35 goes to Lk 18:43.

Lk 18:43 goes to Lk 19:1.

Lk 19:1 goes to Lk 19:28.

Lk 19:28 goes to Jn 11:55.

Jn 11:55 goes to Jn 11:57.

Jn 11:57 goes to Jn 12:1.

Jn 12:1 goes to Jn 12:9.

Jn 12:9 goes to Jn 12:11.

Jn 12:11 goes to Jn 12:2.

Jn 12:2 goes to Jn 12:8.

Jn 12:8 goes to Mt 21:1.

Lk 18:43 goes to Lk 19:1.

Lk 19:1 goes to Lk 19:28.

Lk 19:28 goes to Jn 11:55.

Jn 11:55 goes to Jn 11:57.

Jn 11:57 goes to Jn 12:1.

Jn 12:1 goes to Jn 12:9.

Jn 12:9 goes to Jn 12:11.

Jn 12:11 goes to Jn 12:2.

Jn 12:2 goes to Jn 12:8.

Jn 12:8 goes to Mt 21:1.

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 21](#)