



Midweek service. April 1, 2020

Theme:

The service of the Son of Man

Bible text:

Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Matthew 20: 28

Message:

Jesus Christ came to serve mankind.

Introduction

Our Bible text comprises the conclusion of a passage in which the mother of two of Jesus' disciples asks Him to give them a prominent position in the kingdom of God. Jesus denies this request and explains that it is up to God alone to assign such special honours.

The Son of Man has come in order to serve

After the mother of these disciples expresses her expectation of Jesus to award such honours to her sons, He speaks of His mission, which is not comprised of receiving or bestowing honours, but rather of helping mankind. Here Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man. He thereby alludes to the fact that He has come forth from God and the glory of God. The arrival of the Son of Man was expected by many Jews. However, His coming was always associated with notions of outward rulership and other displays of power.

Jesus makes it clear that the Son of Man did not come in order to reign in a political sense, or to be served like a ruler. In the words of [Philippians 2:7](#), it can indeed be said that the Son of Man "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men".

How the Son of Man served

Jesus did not live for Himself. He was not concerned with success or affluence. The focus of His life was the endeavour to proclaim the will of God to man and to lead humanity back into fellowship with God.

He preached the gospel that the kingdom of heaven was near. In so doing He made it clear in both word and deed that the reign of God was near. This also included caring for those in need of help. He was not indifferent when He saw hunger and need, but showed compassion and cared for the hungry and the needy.



One incident in which the ministering attitude of Jesus comes to expression in perhaps the most impressive manner can be found in [John 13: 1–14](#). There we read how Jesus washed the feet of His disciples.

The Son of Man gives His life

The serving of the Son of Man far surpassed any service human beings could ever perform, because He gave His life a ransom for many. He took the guilt of sin of all mankind upon Himself, along with the consequences this entailed. He gave His innocent life as a ransom in order that our guilt and sin could be forgiven. Jesus died so that we could live.

How we can serve

If we appreciate the service of the Son of Man, we will not demand any sort of special honour or a prominent position in the kingdom of God. We will simply be grateful for what Jesus has done for us. Let us follow His example and serve God and our neighbour.

For example, let us not simply ignore our neighbour, but rather endeavour to help him in both a spiritual and natural respect. Let us stand by him in his needs and point him to salvation in Christ.

Summary

- Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man and thereby points to the fact that He has come forth from God and His glory.
- The Son of Man took on the form of a bondservant in Jesus, and served mankind in both a natural and spiritual respect.
- The Son of Man gave His innocent life as a ransom to ensure that our guilt and sin could be forgiven.