

Philippians 2:5-11

January 16, 2011

I. Introduction: Christ as Servant

Today we welcome our guests. Our lesson is based on the New Testament verse in the book of Philippians chapter two, verses five through 11. It is really the place that we want to get to in our lives.

Remember that we talked about how all four of the Gospels portray the Lord Jesus Christ in a different format. Matthew portrays Him as the King of the Jews, Mark as a servant, Luke as the Son of Man, and John as the Son of God.

I want to read again for you Philippians chapter two. I think it will set the scene for where we are today.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We ask You now to take this time and let us go to Your Word and find those things that You have for us in our hearts. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

II. The Servant Presented (Mark 1-10)

I told you that the book of Mark breaks down into two sections. In the first section, which runs from chapter one through chapter 10, we find the servant presented. What does that mean? It means that we find the Lord Jesus Christ in the mindset of a servant.

Remember I told you last week that Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," is often taken as a standalone verse about having the mind of Christ. That's absolutely true, and there's nothing wrong with that. But when you put it into context, the mind that he is talking about that Christ had is the mind of being a servant.

You and I are saved for one purpose, and that is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve others. We saw this great example in the twelve apostles, didn't we? They started out well when He called them, but then they had some issues and problems.

Much like the same problems we have as God's people today, instead of working together, instead of trying to get to the point where they serve others, they got to the point where, like a lot of God's people, they quit serving. They developed the attitude that they deserved everything. They deserved to be apostles. They deserved respect as apostles. Much like a lot of Christians, they lost the concept of ministry and they lost the concept of being a servant.

We looked at it last week. We saw how they got to the point where their hearts were hardened, and yet they were walking with the Lord. They were doing everything with the Lord, and yet the Bible says that their hearts were hardened. We find that, like many Christians, they quit growing spiritually.

Then they could not do anything themselves. They had no power of God in their life. They could not cast out demons anymore. They were struggling. They were arguing about who was the greatest among them. Then they saw somebody else who was not one of their group doing some things for God, and instead of being happy about it, they wanted to go and stop it. This is a picture of New Testament Christianity: "I don't want to do it myself, but I'm mad because you're doing it."

That's just the way the first 10 chapters break down. It is built around His work in life. It is built around His obedience in ministry. Then it is built around His obedience and the attitude of a servant. Even though He was God, He became man and humbled Himself as a servant.

Even though you and I have the power of God, much like the disciples, and we have things that God can do in our lives, and we have an accountability for power that God has given us through the Word of God in our lives, we always need to keep our hearts humbled as a servant and do those things that God has called us to do.

III. The Servant Promoted (Mark 11-16)

In the second section, which runs from Mark 11 through 16, we deal with Christ as a servant in another format. Here, it is the servant promoted. The word "promotion" in the Bible is a great word.

Psalms 75:6-7

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

What the Lord did there is He took the four points of a compass—north, south, east, and west—and He tells you that promotion does not come from the east, it does not come from the west, nor does it come from the south. But God then put His name in the place of north. That is a great key in the Bible that shows you a lot of different things. The greatest thing that I want you to see today is that God looks at the rapture as a promotion, and you were promoted.

We are in an army, and in armies you get promotions. You do not get promotions because you are popular. You do not get promotions because you have been in the army for 40 years. You get promotions because you do things within the service that relegate you to being promoted. Most of the things that get you promoted are things they look for, which are leadership qualities and leadership skills. In the Christian life, it is the same thing.

The old Salvation Army, in the old days, used to put out their paper. I used to read it all the time. They had a section in there, and I loved it because it talked about the old Salvation Army warriors that died. They had a section titled, "Promoted to Glory." They understood that concept. So, the idea of a servant being promoted.

We see here the attitude of Christ as a servant in His work on the cross, and the work on the cross is a legitimate work. When He died on the cross, what did He say? He said, "It is finished." What was He talking about? He was talking about the work of His Father that He came to do, and that work was the finished work of His death on the cross. We see in the second section His obedience and sacrifice, and we see also in this His obedience unto death. All through that, we find the attitude of a servant.

IV. The Church as a MASH Unit: Redefining Ourselves

I broke this book down into two lessons very simply because of where we are as a church. I think the greatest aspect of what God is doing in this church, outside of the Bible which we all know we put at the top of the list, is the attitude of a servant that so many of you have. I think there are a number of reasons for that. Obviously, the first one is the Word of God; you are letting God do His work in your life.

But I also think that it comes from the fact that in our church we have a unique situation. We are totally isolated from the mainstream of Christianity. We do not have a lot of outside influx and a lot of outside issues coming in. We are pretty much alienated from all of that, and I think that is by God's design the greatest thing that ever happened to our church. This church is free from any form of politics. It is an even playing field; you earn your way.

The most important thing I look at is the people God brings to us. You realize that since we started our church about eight years ago, the people that God has brought to us for the most part are people who have no understanding of what Christianity really is. They have no understanding. They have not been tainted by bad Baptist churches or bad doctrine. They basically come in; they do not know anything about the Bible. They just know after a short period of time they need to trust Christ as their own personal Savior. Then God saves them, and they have a very fresh start. They grow up in an environment where they never have to deal with all of the "crap" that goes on in Christianity today.

On the other hand, we have the people that come in from other churches. Even they are different. I look at some of you, and all of us at some time or another, we sit down and we talk. Mostly when new people come into the church, we sit down and you want to find out what is going on, and that is all great and everything. But I see a consistency in just about everybody that comes in. Even the people that come from other churches are different. You have been in churches and you

have been up and down in life, and the thing about you that sets you apart is that you have been looking for the truth all of your life.

I have people all the time that we sit down and talk, and maybe they are 40 or 50 years old, and yet they have come to a place in their life where they are just now getting it figured out. They feel bad about that, and they feel like they have to apologize to me, and they wish that they would have gotten it together earlier in life. Well, we all can tell you that same story. I did not get it squared away until I was 20-something years old. I wasted the first 20 years of my life if you want to look at it that way. But I found over the years that you never waste the time. Some of you were not ready back at that point in time, and God brought you through circumstances. God put you in situations, good and bad. God allowed things to happen in your life, and through that whole time, He was looking at your heart, and He saw a desire to know the truth. After a period of time, He brings you to a place that you get the truth. For you, it is a lifelong quest. You only have one thing to say once you see the reality of the truth of the Word of God, and that is, "I'm in, pal. I want part of this."

So it is a unique situation. I think that this church has an understanding with the people that are in it. How many remember the TV series, MASH? Most people, though they love the series and they are MASH people, like Star Trek people and all that, never really understood what the acronym for MASH was. MASH meant Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. It was a design that was started after World War II where they put these mobile hospitals, completely staffed with surgeons, right within five or 10 miles, maybe even closer, of the enemy lines. The idea was that when a person was wounded, it took less time to get you to the hospital so you had a better survival rate.

I look at that concept, and I think, "That's us. We're like a MASH unit." My job, your job, is to take people who come in with wounds.

- Some are large, some are small.
- Some are flesh wounds, some are critical wounds.
- Some require very little care.
- Some require urgent care.
- Some require a lot of care.

But at the end of the day, as a church, we do the same thing a MASH unit did. We patch you up so we can get you back to the front and get back into battle. That is our job. That is what we do. Most of you have come in with wounds, some small, some large, whatever, but you are on the firing line today. You are back in it.

It just overwhelms me. You have heard me say this many, many times, that both Christians and churches have to come to the point in their life where you realize that as a church and as individuals, if you are ever going to continue to grow, you have to continue to redefine who you are. I think a lot of times marriages fail and have problems because they do not continue to define themselves within that context. I know churches fail.

V. The Foundation of Truth: Building a Core Base

I think young pastors today, and I am familiar with many of them, all make one vital mistake. It is a mistake that should not have to be made, but I think that they make it. A while back, I taught you the seven steps of spiritual growth. I told you that in the Bible, there is a way that you can measure your spiritual growth. You ought to be looking at that every day of your life. You ought to be looking at how year by year, you should grow. I can look back in this church with a measured growth process and see how this church has progressed and grown from year to year. You ought to be able to do that in your own life.

The problem with young pastors is they do not understand that. When you start a church, for the first five or six years, you can live off the excitement. A lot of new stuff, and everybody is excited about it. For five or six years, everything goes along pretty well. You can ride off of that hype, so to speak, of the excitement of a new church. But there comes a point in time when that excitement goes away. If you as the pastor do not know how to get that church and those people to the next level, if you do not know what it means to build a church, how to constantly have the people within the church redefining themselves, and the church then redefining itself, that it keeps up with the growth that it has to have, you run out of steam after a while. You just cannot build a church on hype. You may get away with it for four or five years. It all may be new and everybody may be excited, but there comes a time when the excitement wears off, and you better know what you are doing in building a church. If you do not, you are going to have some problems and issues. After you are six or seven years into it, you better know what you are doing and you better have a plan to get that church to the next level.

Most churches today, most young pastors today, fail to see how important it is to build a core base of young men and young ladies who understand the Bible. They never take the time to invest, to get a core base of people in their church committed to knowing the Bible as well as the pastor does. Maybe that is the problem: the pastor does not know the Bible himself. It is a dilemma.

I have seen situations over the years where a young man went into a situation where he went to maybe somebody else's Bible study or somebody else's church. I had a couple that went to a church a number of years ago for a Bible study, and they were on vacation. They went into a church down there, and they were welcomed and everything. Somebody asked a question in the Bible study. I do not remember what the question was, but it was a question that had depth to it. The pastor obviously did not know what he was doing with it, and my guy just raised his hand, and he caused a very great stir in that church. It is because the church has no foundation. I hear stories like that all the time.

The bottom line is, anybody could come into this church and teach whatever they want to teach, lay out whatever they want to lay out, and it is not what I believe anymore. It is what this church is built on, and the men and women who understand the Bible. You let somebody come in on Thursday night and try to teach a heresy sometime. You guys will be on him like ugly on an ape, because you know what you believe. You have invested yourself and built yourself into it, and that is where it is at.

Churches have to continually redefine themselves. I told you last New Year's Eve, not this year's, but the previous one, we spent that whole night, and we laid out a new concept for where this church was going to go. There were some people who did not like it, but the bottom line is simply this: as pastor, I knew that we could not stay where we were, and we would have to move this church to the next level. That basically started when we began these prayer groups that we talked about, "iron sharpening iron" out of the Bible.

I told you at that time that once we made that move, as innocent as it looked—a prayer group looks like a Sunday social, it does not look very threatening—the moment we made that move, it would shake this church down to its foundational core. And boy, did it ever. I told you that night, I warned you what was going to happen. And it absolutely did. Look around you this morning. It is incredible. All the people that have been saved, all the new families, we are so much stronger this January than we were last January. All the pieces are finally coming together.

The reason for that, my friend, is simple. The reason for that is simply you. You and the fact that you have taken up the attitude of a servant. You and your willingness to redefine yourself. That was the great challenge for you, because I am going to tell you something: the hardest thing for any Christian to do is to stay in that mode where you redefine yourself. When you redefine yourself, you have to quit blaming your problems on somebody else. You cannot excuse yourself anymore for your inconsistencies. You cannot point fingers at everybody else and say, "Well, I'm this way because of them." No, when you start to redefine yourself, it forces you to look inside and see who you really are. That is where the defining process takes place.

I watch in utter amazement at some of you folks. I watched last night at volleyball. I have never seen so many people in all my life. It looked like ants coming to a picnic. Then I walk around, and I listen to what you guys and gals are saying in your devotions. You do not know that I am listening, but I listen to what you say. I watch how you help and what you do. I watch you people behind the scenes, how many hours you put in with people. Things that you do not know I see. I watch your commitment to what you do. You have a job like everybody else. You work 40 hours a week or more. You have everything that everybody else has. You have a family, you have this, and yet you always balance it out. This is because you have come to the place in your mind and your heart where you have redefined yourself, and you are the greatest asset this church could ever have, or any church could have. You are a servant with a servant's attitude. You do not care what needs to be done. You certainly do not care who is watching you. You just get it done.

I watch the people you bring. I watch the people that get saved because of your burden for them. I watch you work with them. I watch you spend the hours that you spend behind the scenes. I watch you never miss an opportunity, and that is what makes this church what it is.

Yet at the same time, I am not going to pretend for a second that we are a perfect church. We are not; we never will be. There is no such thing as a perfect Christian. We all have our issues. As long as we are in existence, we will all be goofy at times. You will always have problem people. You will always have people, no matter what God is doing, all they focus on is what the negative is. That is just the way it is. You always have people, no matter how much depth comes, they stay shallow. That is always the way it is.

Have you ever gone to a nice big swimming pool? You have the guys who like to do double black flips, some of them are off the high board and smash into the water. You have the people that do cannonballs. You have the people who just jump in, and you have people that get into mid-water, and then you just have some that for whatever reason will never get out of the ankle-deep end of the pool. Churches are the same way. But that just comes with a ministry. Mel Sabaca used to say, and it is a great quote, "Wherever you got light, the Bible, you got bugs." That is true, but that is our job. That is what we do.

It is the core leadership of this church. I have taught you many, many times, and we have talked about this on Thursday night, and we have talked about this in our prayer group meetings when we started. That is always a continuation of going through and helping you redefine yourself. This is another mistake churches make. Churches want to grow numerically. They want to go up the scale, but they do not want to flatten out at the bottom. Anybody who is an architect, anybody who does any kind of building, knows that for every foot you go up, you have to have a foot of base that substantiates the height that you go. Building a church this way without building a church in its baseline will always be a disaster. Your growth vertically has to be in direct proportion to your baseline growing horizontally, because it is the core men and women who grasp the concept of being a servant who are part of the ministry that makes the church grow.

I look at this church and I stand in amazement at just about all of you, even you new folks coming in. They have new people come in and they do not know anything about the Bible. They do not know anything about this. They do not know anything about that. And yet they are willing to take what they do have. "Here, do this with my house. Do this with my car. Do this with this. Do this with that. Whatever you need." That is what I am talking about, that wherever you are at, you can do something. It is not about your ability; it is about the attitude of a servant. Our church is filled with quite a few of them. This church has stepped up and has taken the baton of not just ministry, but redefining your thinking as a servant. You are willing to do whatever you need to do. This is what Romans chapter 12 talks about when it talks about transforming yourself.

I like old movies. I like to read a lot of books. If there is a movie coming out, and I know that books have been written about that movie before, I will go read the book so I have a reference for the movie. One of the things I like to do is I am a guy who is always comparing things in everything I do. Most people do not know that, and I do not want to give away all my secrets, but I do it all the time. In the ministry, my greatest asset is comparison, like comparing what you say with what you do. In these things, I read the books; I want to see if the book lines up to the movie.

I do not know if you know it or not, but there is an art in the way that they made the old movies. I do not care much about the new movies, unless a lot of people are getting killed in them. I enjoy them that way. I enjoy any movie that is a horror movie where a lot of teenagers get cut up with buzz saws. I think that is a good thing. Texas Chainsaw Massacre and all those things. I love those things. Horror flicks, bloody scenes, killing them all on the beach, whatever the case. But I really like the psychological thing behind the old movies.

During World War II, most of the great World War II movies were made with a psychological plot behind them. Most of those movies, if you watch them on the old channels, at the end of the movie, you will see a little sign that says, "Buy war bonds in this theater." Those movies were made with a political purpose to be shown in the theaters and then to excite the people to buy war bonds to fund the war. There is a psychology to it. They all follow the same thing. They have great actors in them. John Wayne is a great one. They all follow the same thing: America is the underdog who got attacked at Pearl Harbor. They are trying to fight their way back. So you have a lot of good, clean kids out there, a picture of America, fighting for America. That always gets the crowd excited. Then it always portrays the enemy, no matter who they are—in this case, Japanese—as ruthless and terrible. In all the movies, the young kid will get killed, and everybody will weep and cry, but they also then turn a vengeance toward the Japanese. At the end of the movie, they are going to sell \$50 million worth of war bonds. At the end, the Japanese, who were the great strong guys at the beginning, now look like whipped puppies, and victorious America is chasing them all over the island and killing them in bucket loads. Everybody by the end of the movie is just screaming. They go out and buy war bonds.

I remember one great movie, Guadalcanal Diary. Guadalcanal was a very dark side in our history in World War II. It was made shortly after. It is a typical thing. The Japanese are killing everybody. A bunch of young Marines get killed, and they tell the story through a narrative. Everybody is sad, but then they start coming back and going on the offensive. I can just see them in the theater screaming and yelling and waving their handkerchiefs. In this one particular scene, this Japanese guy is in this tank, and he is shooting machine guns. He has the big, thick, typical, big, thick glasses on, big buck teeth like they thought Japanese looked like back then. He is firing a machine gun, he is laughing, and Marines are falling. Suddenly, the whole theater is absolutely silent. Suddenly, this Marine guy who is running a big shovel with a big bucket on it comes down and scoops up his tank and picks it way up in the air, about 50, 60, 70 feet. They are swinging back and forth. Now the Japanese, who a moment ago were laughing with their big buck teeth out and shooting everybody, are screaming. The crowd is going crazy in the movie theater. One of the Japanese pops the hood on the tank, and he gets up there and he is looking down. A big old, grimy Marine, a typical Leatherneck, a big old Marine with a Thompson submachine gun with a cigar out of his mouth, helmet cocked to the side, goes up there and holds that Tommy gun and he goes, "Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom!" The Japanese screams and falls down 50 feet and crumbles in there. One of the guys looked over and says, "Hey, what'd you do that for?" The old Marine takes a cigar out and says, "I was afraid the fall would kill him." I love that man. The place goes crazy.

Movies have a psychological effect on people. When I was five years old, my life changed by a movie I saw. It was the story of Davy Crockett. Fess Parker. I can sing it today: "Born on a mountain top in Tennessee, the greatest state in the land of the free. Davy, Davy Crockett." I had a coonskin cap. I had me a flintlock rifle. It changed my life. I cried. I was six or seven years old. I cried. I wept. My heart was broken when Davy was killed. Of course, he was killed at the Alamo. The Alamo became a very interesting thing in my life. I began to read about the Alamo and I began to watch movies about the Alamo. There have been three or four or five remakes of

the Alamo. In my mind, the greatest one was Fess Parker. They made one about five or six years ago with Billy Bob Thornton playing Davy Crockett, and that was pretty good.

I got enticed in the history of the Alamo. Most people do not understand or do not care. Back in 1836, a long time ago, there was a 13-day siege down there in a little Spanish church in Rio Grande. Texas was trying to form itself up to be a state, and Santa Anna and Mexico were contending with the Americans for that piece of ground. In that little border down there, Sam Houston was trying to raise an army some 50 or 100 miles away to take on Santa Anna. But Santa Anna was on the march. What stood between him and Sam Houston was a little adobe place called the Alamo. Colonel William Travis was in charge there, and he only had a little over 100 men. This is where my hero, Davy Crockett, led the Tennessee militia to help those guys. He was always going where he was needed.

I found a little study on him. Davy Crockett's heritage goes back through the Huguenots. Incredible thing. I took a little journey into his history one time and traced him back. He goes back to the 1600s with the French Huguenots, who were Bible-believing Christians. That does not mean anything for Davy, but I hope he was. I had my doubts about it. But anyway, they were held up for 13 days. Finally, they came down and overtook them and killed them. The Alamo did what it needed to do. It held Santa Anna long enough for Sam Houston to get his army together.

The interesting thing to me, and I have never forgotten this, is that I make a lot of parallels, not only to my own life, but to what I see in Christianity. Because it all goes back to the book, no matter what it is. On the last night before the final battle, Colonel Travis called all of the men together. These were all volunteers. He was honest with them and told them what was about to happen. He told them that they were a little over 100 guys. The reinforcements never got there. Santa Anna's army was somewhere probably like 2,500 to 3,000 guys. They had been shelling them unceasingly. They only had one cannon in the Alamo while Santa Anna had artillery everywhere. He told them that tomorrow would be the last battle.

He did something that I never forgot as a kid. He took out a sword and he drew a line in the sand. He told the guys that were there that if anybody did not want to stay and face that battle for Texas tomorrow, they could cross that line and sneak out under the cover of darkness, and there would be no dishonor associated with their departing. Because he was going to stay, his militia was going to stay, but many of them were volunteers. Even though their plight was desperate, and even though probably if half the guys would have left, it would not have made a difference, every man stayed. A hundred or so brave men stayed and died for what they believed in, which was the Republic of Texas.

The Alamo and the death of those men sent a message through all of the nation. The cry that came out of that was, "Remember the Alamo," much like in World War II, "Remember Pearl Harbor." Sam Houston got his army and he finally defeated Santa Anna, all because of some brave men who were willing to pay the price and stayed behind in a rearguard action to hold the line.

I think in the same way, last New Year's Eve, God did the same thing. He drew a line in the sand. We already know that we are in the final battle from anybody that heard the tape on Zechariah

and Malachi. We know that we are in the 11th hour. We are in the fourth watch. We know the six-day system. We know where we are at. We are in the final battle. That night, everybody in this church had to make that decision for themselves. You had to decide to stay or sneak out under the cover of darkness.

I am telling you, our church today is where it is at, not because of me, but because of you and the decision you made to hold the line. So many of you decided to do what needed to be done in your life to build your relationship, to step up to that next level and take control of your life, redefine yourself, and in the process become that servant that God wanted you to be. That has made this church what it is.

I have watched so many of you make that decision. You never were bad people. We do not have any bad people in our church. I have watched many of you make that decision. You just lacked a total commitment and an involvement in your walk, and you needed somebody to point you in the right direction. I have watched you. I have watched some of you that have been in this church for three or four years that basically, you were great people. You came all the time. You just never took a part of leadership in helping somebody else. Now it is everywhere, absolutely everywhere. I just stand in amazement at what I see going on.

You simply did what Paul told us to do in Hebrews 12:1.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Missy, you remember what you told me? It has been probably three or four years ago when you first started coming back to church. If you do not mind me saying, you were kind of out there in left field and running all over the place. You came home to my house one night, and you had been in this church now about three or four years, and you made a statement that I never forgot. You came over to my office and you said to me, "Bob, I threw away my running shoes." You said, "I'm not running from God anymore." I do not say that to put her in any position. I say that because I could say that a thousand times, but I cannot be here all morning. But it is that kind of thing.

Eve, I hope you never lose the zeal that you have. I hope that you never get to the place where what happened to you, what happened to your husband, just becomes, "Oh, it's another day with Jesus." Personally, I do not think it ever will. But do not ever let it happen. I want you to know, there will be special rewards in heaven for you just living with her and being married to her and putting up with all that. I have to go along with it. It is a good side to everything, brother. It is a good side to everything.

Almost the whole middle level of this church stood up out of our church and stepped forward. What you see this morning, what you see is happening, is because of that. It has nothing to do with me. God can put anybody in here to give the right direction. I have learned how to teach the Bible. That is not a hard thing. I will tell you what I have never learned to do, and probably never

will learn. I can teach the Bible; that is the easy part. But I have never learned how to make people want to serve God when they do not want to. That has to be between you and the Lord.

Bob Greg and I were talking a while back, and he said something that is so true. One of those things that you always knew, but you just never had it put into the right words. He said, "Nothing defines a man better than the responsibility and accountability of ministry." That is so true. Nothing will define who you are with the Lord better than what you do for the Lord. Because you can say whatever you want to say, and you can put all kinds of things, "Well, I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that." At the end of the day, it only comes down to what you do. That is what really defines you and me. At that point, you start the process of redefining and understanding all the different aspects of ministry.

This next year, one of the things that I want to do is I want to take a couple of Saturdays a year. No real formal thing. But I want to meet with the men in this church. I want to sit down. We will just put some tables together. We will bring in breakfast or whatever we want. All I want to do is sit down and have an informal time where you can ask me and talk to me and show you how ministry really works. There are probably questions you have about the ministry, why we do what we do, or how this works or how that works with the business of everything, that you do not get to ask. I want to have a place where you can come in and sit down and say, "Bob, why do you do it this way? What is this all about here?" I want you to have the freedom to ask everything that you can to help you grow and redefine yourself in ministry. It is part of the process. Things like that will help you grow farther and faster, quicker, because you have a place.

Just like coming over, how many times have I told you folks to come over and we sit down with the Bible and we will go through your list of questions? What do I always tell you? I tell you, "With these 20 questions you asked me tonight, you probably got done in one hour what it would have taken you to get through on your own in six months with the Bible." That is how you accelerate things, by asking questions. I am surprised that Mel Sabaca had his hearing as long as he did because I wore both his ears out in the years that I was with him, asking him every question I could ask him. That was probably the greatest time in my life.

It is you and your attitude of being a servant. It is what makes this a church that I believe is great in the eyes of God. That is why I think it is vitally important to take the time with Mark to do what we did last week, so that what happened to the disciples does not happen to us. We do not come to the point where what you are really worried about today is that people recognize you. That your worst fear today is who is the greatest. Because that comes into Christians' lives. Christians that do not redefine themselves and see other Christians redefining themselves and growing have a tendency to feel threatened. Then they seek attention. That is not what service is all about for the Lord. That is not what the attitude of being a servant is about. That is why I want you to understand that today.

I want to weave through our study this morning a truth that we must never stray from. Not a magnitude of truth, but it is the greatest truth that we could ever follow as a church. That simply is: always do what the Bible tells us to do. Follow the Bible. In every given scenario, no matter who likes it, who does not like it, stay with the Bible. There is a great principle in ministry that

you will learn if you stay there long enough. That is simply this: time proves all things. Somebody may have an issue with this or that, but in time—five years, three years, two years—time proves the bottom line. Stick with the Bible. Always do what the Bible tells you to do. Stay with its principles, stay with its clear teaching, and never deviate from them no matter what the cost. In the end, it will be worth whatever price you have to pay.

Short-term victories many times bring long-term defeats. I never look at the short term. A lot of people will make decisions based on the short term because it is less of a hassle. It may be less of a hassle short term, but it is only going to cause you more problems long term. These are things that you learn. These are things that this church is well on the way to getting.

VI. Tradition vs. Truth: The Problem of Non-Biblical Systems

Our second section, "The Servant Promoted," again, these are some great things to see that are very, very important. Last week we saw the fundamental problem with the Jews. That problem basically was they had developed a complete non-biblical system. A system that had nothing to do with the Bible; it was built on tradition. Jesus dealt with the leaders, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, on the issue in chapter seven over the issue of washing hands. This is where He told them that what you have done is you have laid aside the commandments of God. Your worship is in vain, and you have rejected the commandments of God, and all of this had been replaced with tradition. He says the end result of that is the fact that you have made the Word of God of none effect.

That is the thing that you cannot let happen in your life. I know many of you are just young, and you are growing, and you are coming to the point where you are getting into this thing, and I am there to help you. I am excited about what God is doing. I am excited about all the new families, all the new people. There are just not enough hours in the day. I look at you guys working, and last night again, I just cannot get past it. It was absolutely one of the things that just, wow, I just do not know what to tell you, what God is doing in some of your lives, or all of your lives, and I am just excited about it. But you never want to get to the place where the Word of God has no effect in your life.

I want you to look at a verse here for a moment, Colossians chapter two and verse eight. The church at Colossae is kin to the Laodicean church. In fact, Colossae was about 11 miles from Laodicea. In the scheme of things in the Bible, that is very important; we do not have time to get into that this morning. But we are going to see a verse here that I think is very important. We are going to see today how this works today in the second section like it did back then, and how it destroys the truth of God even today by making the Bible of none effect.

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

The last section of Mark does an amazing thing. It is the only book of the Gospels that does this because it is dealing with the work of Christ as a servant, and that work we know is the crucifixion of Christ. The book of Mark details out for us the last week of Christ. It takes Palm Sunday when He goes into Jerusalem and then gives you a day-by-day, in many cases an hour-by-hour, running account of that last week right up to His death and His resurrection. In other words, it takes you from the week of Palm Sunday right up to His death and crucifixion. In many religious circles, this is called Holy Week, and they make a lot of ado about all of these different things. But this week is the most important week in the Bible simply because we are looking at this as a servant. For you and for me, not only are we to be a servant that is presented, but we are to be a servant that is promoted. In your spiritual growth, in your redefining process, you are going to have to get to the place in your life where you understand obedience and sacrifice. You understand the obedience in what you have to do.

It is here we see the tradition of men that Jesus talked about destroyed the truth of God. The Bible at this particular point in time became of none effect. I told you last week, the five things that happened:

1. They lost the miracles of God.
2. They lost the truth of God.
3. They lost the power of God.
4. They lost the purpose of God.
5. Then they lost God through a non-biblical system.

That is exactly what we want to look at today. Today in 2011, God's people literally have no sense of direction. The devil has taken the Word of God from them and replaced it with the traditions that we are going to talk about. Pastors and teachers and churches are much like the leaders and the Jews in the first coming of Christ. We have entered into a non-biblical system. This is why I put such an emphasis on the Bible. This is why I put such an emphasis on using biblical principles. This is why I talk about that in everything we do. No matter how popular it is, we have to stick with what the Bible says. You find a lot of things that are based on tradition today and not on the Bible.

One of those things is understanding the concept of Holy Day. Stay with me here, because I think you are probably wondering where I am going, but I will show you how this thing works. This is very important. Take your Bible and come back to Colossians chapter two, verse 14. This is a definitive verse in your Bible. If you do not have this marked yet, you need to mark it. This is the definitive verse in your Bible on tradition, Holy Days, and all of the things that people bring into the world today that have nothing to do with God or the Bible. We are going to see that here in just a little bit.

Colossians 2:14-17

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

For a Christian in the New Testament, there are no traditions. There are no Holy Days. We call them holidays. There is only one day in the Bible that is set apart from the other days. That is the day that Christ came out of the tomb. That is the first day of the week, which we know is Sunday. You have to have a balance in all this. I want to try to explain it to you so you understand how this thing all works. This is important to your growth. A lot of your growth has to do with not just things in the Bible, but things about the Bible.

I am the kind of guy who always wanted to know why. My whole life, where most of your little kids grow up and their best word they know is "no," mine was "why." I wanted to know the why of everything. I think that served me well because even as dumb as I am, I learned a lot of things just by asking the question "why." I looked at this, and many, many years ago, I want to give you the why of why things are the way they are, not to change them, because we are not going to change it. But for you to redefine yourself and to keep growing and add to your reservoir of knowledge about how things work and your better job of being a better servant, I think it is really important.

From the time of Christ up to about 300 AD, the Roman government was in power. It was a pagan Roman government. They had been in power since about 100 years before Christ when they defeated the Greeks and some other nations, and Rome emerged as the world power. Rome was in power when Christ was on this earth. Roman soldiers killed Him. It was a Roman decree that put Him to death, and all of that goes together. For the next 300 years, pagan Rome tried to wipe out Bible Christianity. Depending on what list you read, you can find as many as 200 different Roman emperors, though nobody is exact on it. All of these Roman emperors run from about the time of Christ up to about 300 AD.

Around 300 AD, something changed. A pagan Roman emperor came to the throne whose name was Constantine the Great. Constantine the Great is given notoriety in all of the history books. We studied him at great length in church history this last time. Constantine the Great was given the designation as being the last pagan Roman emperor. He is also given a designation for bringing Christianity to Rome. Here is what basically happened. Constantine was going to battle, and he was greatly outnumbered. They were fighting around a place—this would be 313 AD, 313 years after Christ—called Milvian Bridge. He was greatly outnumbered. The night before the battle, he reportedly looked up in the sky and he saw the sign of a cross. He heard a voice, and that voice said, "With this sign thou shalt conquer." So Constantine immediately took that as a sign from God, and immediately had all of his soldiers and all of his men paint crosses on their shields, on their horses, on their helmets, and everywhere else they could find. Miraculously, he defeated the overwhelming army at Milvian Bridge.

At this point, Constantine now believed that he had been chosen by God's design to be the leader of the Christian world. Constantine at that point turned pagan Rome into a religious Rome. Overnight, one of the greatest moves in the Bible that the devil ever pulled. Constantine, because he was a Christian, launched into a great soul-winning campaign to convert all the heathen. His tactics worked pretty well: "Get saved or I'll kill you." That is always effective. In many cases, he bought people off to get saved by 300 pieces of silver. Needless to say, conversion results were incredible. His mode of salvation, of course, was being baptized. So he had all of these situations going on where he himself had a phony conversion. He himself was not baptized until a week before he died. He died and went to hell.

About 326 AD, if you look on our chart back there, he called the first Christian council. There have been a number of Christian councils through church history, all of them bad. He called the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. The Council of Nicaea was a political move for Constantine because his kingdom was so vast. It ran all the way from what we called back then Byzantium, which is in Turkey, modern-day Istanbul, all the way over to Rome and all the way up into Europe and into Africa even. He had a vast kingdom. Obviously, it was tough for him to consolidate all that. So he decided to do it through religion. He called the Council of Nicaea in 325. In Nicaea, 300 bishops, that is a pastor, and 300 men thrashed out with Constantine what the rules of Christianity were going to be. They decided what was right and wrong in the Bible for everybody else on planet Earth.

What happened was that after Constantine went back to Byzantium, he left a bishop on the throne over here in Rome to kind of keep all of his kingdom together. At that time, right about 326 AD, we find the beginning of what we know as the Roman Catholic Church. This is not a criticism in any way, shape, or form. I have very many friends who are Roman Catholics. I have talked to priests many, many times. So what I am saying is not a criticism. This is in their own history, if you just read it. It is a situation where the Roman Catholic Church is a religion that is based on tradition and the Bible.

I asked a priest one time in a very civil way, we were just having a conversation about tradition. He said, "Well, we hold tradition and the Bible in the same mode." I said, "Well, that's fine. What do you do when tradition contradicts what the Bible says?" Of course, his answer to me was, "Well, that doesn't happen." After giving four or five places where it did, he said, "It's real simple. When the Bible and tradition counter each other or conflict with each other, we simply take the tradition of the church." I said, "Okay, that's fine. I have no problem with that. That's where you're at."

When Constantine started his soul-winning campaign, he simply brought all of the pagans who were forced into a salvation under this church. He brought all of them in to control them politically. If you know as well as I do, have you ever been in the Southern Baptist Convention? If you want to control people, just get into that system. Or the American Baptist, or the Fundamental Baptist for that matter. You say, "Well, what kind of Baptist are you?" I am a Bible-believing Christian Baptist. I am not kidding anybody. If I had the Catholics attack me this way, and the Church of Christ coming up this way, and the Methodists over here, and the Fundamental

Baptists attack them here, I would throw the tear gas and kill them all. That is how I look at it. But that is just me. It would be a bad day, but in Jesus' name, we would do it.

From here on, we see Constantine simply brings a religion that brings all of the pagans in. When they come in, they bring with them all of the pagan things that they are celebrating that are their traditions, that after the Reformation spread into the Protestant churches and then moved on its way into America.

Briefly, we do not have time for a lot. The first one we know of is Christmas. Break down the word "Christmas," and it is "Christ mass." Tradition teaches that Jesus Christ was born on December 25th. If you know anything about the Bible at all, you know that that is not true. Jesus Christ was born at the Feast of Tabernacles, that is September and October. When I grew up, that was basic Bible 101, but we have lost that today. So people actually believe that He was born on December 25th. Of course, that is not true. December 25th in the pagan stuff was the birthday of Baal, the sun god.

If you want to study Christmas trees, then you go back to Jeremiah chapter 10.

Jeremiah 10:3-4

For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

The Bible will tell you that that is what the heathen do. They go out into the forest, cut down a tree with an axe, bring it in, put it in the house, and then they deck it with all kinds of different things. In pagan times, it is a counterfeit tree of life. You bring in a dead tree, you put it up in your corner, you go to bed at night, and in the morning, when the sun comes up, then you come down and the tree has given rebirth. Now it has balls all over it, and tinsel and all the things. I do not have time to get into all of this, but there is a reason why it is a fir tree because in the Bible, the universe is likened to a pyramid, like a fir tree. Ezekiel chapter 28 and Isaiah chapter 14 tell us there was a time at the top of this pyramid there was a winged cherub whose name was Lucifer who was over all of that. So what do we do every time we put up a Christmas tree? We put a little winged angel on top of that pyramid type of the universe. That is where it comes from.

The next thing that they had, they brought in a concept of Easter. Easter is the English word for Ashtar. Ashtar was the pagan god of fertility. Her sign was an egg, which was the Egyptian sign for fertility. Also her sign was a rabbit. If you have had any pet rabbits, you know what I am talking about. Very fertile. Which in time gave rise to the Easter bunny. Here they took a pagan holiday and made it not His birth like December 25th, but they made it His resurrection. So now we have sunrise services coming into churches. Why do you have a sunrise service at Easter? We do not have them. I have never understood why when the Bible clearly says that He came out of the tomb at six o'clock on Saturday night, why we would waste the time coming here sunrise on Sunday morning. Tradition, tradition, tradition.

Then you have the Christians who are all fouled up on it. Halloween always takes a bad rap. I know Christians that are nice people. There is just no criticism to anybody today. I am just talking to you about truth. You can find this on the web, any website. But you find people today that say, "Well, I'm not going to let my kid go out and dress him up like he's some kind of demon on October 31st, which is the feast of the festival of the dead." Really? You have to see him in the elementary class on Sunday. Why would you stop your kid from playing out the role that he is in already? My point is this: the truth of the matter is it shows you how people get all whacked out. Halloween is no more demonic than Christmas or Easter. It is the same pagan god. They all came in with Constantine.

Then you add Lent to it. Lent is 40 days, starting on Ash Wednesday and running 40 days up to Easter. So you have somebody there that in Lent, what they do is they put a mark on their forehead. If you go to the book of Revelation, I know we talked about the number of the Beast, 666, and all that, but if you pay very carefully, you will find there are three things they put on their forehead: it is the number, it is the name, and then there is a mark. Want to find out what that mark is? Go to Ash Wednesday. Do not get mad at me. Why would you get mad at me? Because I am a little smarter than you are. You can read the same book. Somebody said, "Where'd you get that stuff?" Well, it is a conspiracy, friend. They hide that in books.

I stand on it. Obviously, I know what is going through some of your minds. You guys had a Christmas tree, you betcha. We had a Christmas tree put up in the church. I had one in my home. My stand on it is, as long as I understand what it is, and I know, you are not going to change it. There are some people out there in some Baptist churches who just take a hard stand on Christmas, and they tell everybody, "Don't put them up." They look like idiots. I would much rather have one and not believe it means anything and just laugh at it. As long as I know what it is dealing with, I am like Paul over there in the book of Acts, chapter 21.

Paul one time went down to the temple. This is way after Christ was dead on the cross. He goes down to the temple. He shaves his hair like they do. He wears the clothes they do. He goes through all of the washing and all of the things that they do and goes right up to the point when they are ready to offer the evening sacrifice. And he says, "I'm out, I can't do that." That tells you that everything he did up to that point did not mean anything. The only thing that meant something is he could not offer the sacrifice because Christ was already that sacrifice. So, I will go to a point. I will not preach on the birth of Christ on Sunday morning, unless I come out of it from a different angle. My favorite Christmas message is a letter from hell. Amen.

We have Easter egg hunts for the kids. Sure, I understand it. We have an Easter bunny. Rose puts the Easter bunny costume on. You have your picture taken. But we even it out. We chase her around the parking lot afterwards in a truck and beat her with a stick. We take care of it. We have a handle on it. My kids grew up, we let them believe in Santa Claus. People say, "Well, your kids will find out you're lying to them." Kids already know you lie to them. "Well, my kids will just have psychological problems." They are already on Prozac. What are you worried about? Half the kids in the world now are on Prozac when they are six years old. That is because they do not play army. Glad I got that out. I have been carrying that around for a week. We let them believe in that stuff. Santa Claus is easier.

I remember this last Christmas, I had a ball with it. Little Macy, she carried a Toys R Us catalog around for six weeks everywhere she went. She had things marked. Every time she came over, she went, "Papa, I want this, I want that." She wanted the whole thing. But what kid does not? I sat down there. One time I said to her, "Can I see your catalog?" She said, "No." I said, "Oh, I was going to call Santa Claus and tell him what you want." She threw it at me. When she grows up, she will realize this like I did: there is no Santa Claus. They will grow up realizing there is no Easter Bunny. They will grow up knowing there is no Tooth Fairy. That is a gay dentist. I do not know what to tell you. I am just telling you. You have to have truth and know what to do with it. You have to draw the line. It is all right.

I love these bumper stickers that say, "If I'm in an accident, call a priest." Ever see those? I would like to get those and pass them out to everybody in this church. Put them on your bumper. You say, "Why would you want to do that?" Because when I am in an accident, I am lying there almost ready to die, and a priest comes over. I will pull him down and say, "If you don't get saved before I do, you're going to die and go to hell." That is why you call a priest. Get one last shot in. I am always looking for the angle.

Going back to Colossians chapter two, verse 14. There are no holy days for us. Those are traditions of men. That is the devil taking the things of God and trying to get the whole world to glorify him in it because it had nothing to do with it. I say all that because Mark and "The Servant Promoted" deals with another heresy and tradition that we have to understand today, and that is the concept of Good Friday. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Christ was crucified on Friday. So we have in our Holy Week, Good Friday. In reality, folks, it was Bad Wednesday.

Let me lay this out for you. When Constantine did all this and the Greek and Roman gods, you have a woman called Freya (F-R-E-Y-A). She is like Diana in Acts chapter 19, like the rest of them, the queen of heaven in Jeremiah chapter 44, verse 19. But Freya here, she is also the goddess of fertility. You have to have a lot of fertility goddesses. Obviously, where Ashtar's sign was the egg and the rabbit, Freya's sign here is a fish because fish lay millions and millions of eggs. You go back in your Bible in 1 Samuel chapter five, you will find that the pagans back there had taken the Ark of the Covenant and they put it in with their god Dagon. Who was Dagon? Dagon was a half man and a half fish, based on the queen of heaven, Freya, who was the goddess of fertility. That is why they had all their sexual practices.

This is where we get our Friday from, the last day of our work week. The truth of the matter is every day of the week—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday—are named after gods. You should know that. Sunday is the day of the sun gods. So it is called Sunday. On Sunday, back in pagan times, at 12 noon, you will find it in 1 Kings chapter 18, when Elisha is going up against the prophets of Baal, 400 to one, pretty good odds. You will find that they, on Sunday, when the sun got to 12 noon right overhead, that is when they had their service and they worshiped the sun god. It all ties into everything. You ever notice how the Bible avoids every part of that kind of stuff? You notice that the Bible never calls Sunday "Sunday" in the Bible. It stayed with the biblical principle, which we ought to also. It calls it the first day of the week. It will not give it any credibility. You have to pay attention to things like that in the Bible. There is a reason for those things in the Bible.

When you look at all this and you get it all down, this is what the unsaved Constantine did when he brought all the pagans in. He did that by tradition. He made December 25th the birth of Baal. Yes, Friday is Freya's day. Their god of fertility whose sign is a fish. That is why Roman Catholics eat fish on Friday. You are pretty smart. I love when I can make things click like that.

So what he did is make December 25th the birth of Baal, and they made that the birth of Christ. Then you add to it Santa Claus. Santa is the word for saint, Santa Claus. You want to find Santa Claus in your Bible? Where is it? Zechariah 4:4, 4:10. Christmas takes place at the winter solstice. That is the shortest day when the sun is closest to the earth. So that is the Baal birthday when the sun god, Baal, is closest to the earth. It works.

Saint Nick is the Roman Catholic patron of children. You go to Europe at Christmas time, they have Santa. Over here, Santa Claus looks like a beer barrel guy that tells redneck jokes, with a beard on. In Europe, Santa Claus is always dressed like the Pope. He will have the Pope's vestments, he will have a miter hat, which is like a fish. He will have all that stuff. That is how it works. So they take December 25th and make that the birth of Baal. Then they take the pagan goddess and the sex goddess Ashtar and make that Easter. Of course, that is in the springtime; that will be the spring equinox. The spring equinox is very interesting in pagan stuff because that is when you have the rebirth of the earth. Here is their philosophy: the sun is the male figure, the moon is the female figure. The sun chases the moon around the thing. And someplace up there, they get together and have sex. Some things never change. When that happens, then the earth brings forth a rebirth, and the earth is reborn, and after winter comes spring.

Then they took Freya and made her the day of His crucifixion. Because the Roman Catholic Church cannot count, cannot realize that the Bible lays out there are two Sabbaths that week, they cannot read either. What time do they make the Word of God of none effect? You have Christ being crucified on Friday to fit into their Gentile mindset of the crucifixion. What I am going to show you now in Mark shows you that He is crucified on Wednesday. What I am going to do for you at this particular point in time is I am going to walk you through and show you day by day. It happened very quickly. You need to put this in your Bible today, not tomorrow, today.

Let me give you a couple more verses here and then we will get into it. The first verse I already gave you, Colossians chapter two, verses 14 through 17, tells you no holy days. Then you want to go back to Deuteronomy chapter four, verses 15 through 19. Here is what it says here, and you want to take this to heart.

Deuteronomy 4:15-19

Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:

Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,

The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:

And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

So I do not care if it rains or freezes, but as long as you have your plastic Jesus on the dashboard of your car, it is not going to work for you. The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground—there is the guy you went out with last week. The likeness of any fish, fish, fish, fish. There are your little fish pins, your little fish signs that are beneath the earth. He brings those in, Constantine does, they make their way into Christianity, and when God takes the Bibles out of people's hands, everybody follows that line of reasoning, and that is where the problem comes in.

VII. The True Chronology of Christ's Last Week

Now let me walk you through this very quickly. Turn over to Mark chapter 11. We are going to go like a house on fire here.

Mark 11:1-11

The first 11 verses will deal with Sunday, or what we know as Palm Sunday, one week before His crucifixion. This is where in verses two and three, He goes into Jerusalem on the wild ass's colt. They spread the branches, the palm branches, down on verse eight; that is very significant. He goes into the temple in verse 11. Look at verse 11 at the end, "even," time, 6 p.m. That is the end of the first day, and He stays in Bethany Sunday night. You need to get that first day down. There is the first day for you. The first day runs you from Mark 11:1 to 11, and that is Sunday, and He stays in Bethany on Sunday night.

The key here that throws everybody off, and certainly threw the Roman Catholic Church off, is that God counts the day from 6 p.m. at night to 6 p.m. the next day. We count days from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. So He works on a 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. basis, and that is what throws them off, but that is okay. He likes throwing them off.

Mark 11:12-19

Look at verse 12. "On the morrow," verse 12, that is Monday morning. Verse 13, He curses the fig tree. Verse 17, He goes into the temple, and this is where He makes His famous statement. "My house has made my house a den of thieves." He does that two times in the Bible. The first time He does it, He says, "makes my Father's house a den of thieves." That is the first time. This time, right before the cross, He calls it "my house," and there is a reason for that. You have to catch those things in the Bible, boys and girls. They are all there for a reason. So we go through verse 17 where He talks about the temple. Verse 19, look at it, "at even," that will be 6 p.m. Monday night. So now we have Sunday accounted for. We have Monday accounted for.

Mark 11:20-14:17

Tuesday morning. This is the longest day of our week in this account, and this runs all the way up to chapter 14, verse 17. All the events in between these two take place on Tuesday. They are absolutely incredible. You can go in and detail them out on your own or we can do it on a Thursday night. The bottom line is here you are. Verse 19 tells you, and then it is Monday night. Mark 14:17 says, "Tuesday night at even," six o'clock.

Mark 14:18-15:42

Now chapter 14, verse 18, up to chapter 15, verse 42, begins the Passover or Wednesday. As the day He is crucified on, it starts at six o'clock in the afternoon, and that begins Wednesday from a Jewish concept. It carries us through the day of His crucifixion to Wednesday afternoon, which you are told in Exodus 12:6 is the 14th day of the month.

Let us look at it.

Mark 14:18-25

Right after we start this new section, we have the Last Supper. That will be wrapped through 6 p.m.

Mark 14:26

They are on the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14:32-42

Where He has His agony in the garden. You need to detail these out in these sections coming through these chapters so they are at a glance, you can see them.

Mark 14:43

This is where Judas betrays Him.

Mark 14:50-53

This is where all the disciples forsake Him.

Mark 14:67-72

This is where Peter denies Him.

Mark 15:1

In the morning, this will be Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. This is where He is crucified.

Mark 15:1-2

He goes before Pilate.

Mark 15:15

They let go Barabbas.

Mark 15:17

They change His robe and give Him a crown of thorns.

Mark 15:21

He is on His way to the cross, and they get Simon the Cyrenian to help carry the cross. Watch it very carefully.

Mark 15:25

He is crucified the third hour on Wednesday morning. That will put Him on the cross at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Mark 15:33

The sixth and the ninth hour. This will be 12 noon to three o'clock in the afternoon, and this is where He cries out, "I thirst," "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" This is where He literally goes to hell and pays the price on the cross at that particular point.

Mark 15:34-37

He dies Wednesday afternoon on or shortly before the ninth hour, which is three o'clock.

Mark 15:42

"Now even," at six o'clock, the body is taken down and put into the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea. Now starts our three days of Him being dead.

Remember now, Matthew 12:40 says that He has to be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. We have now laid out for you in the book of Mark, "The Servant Promoted," Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Now it is six o'clock Wednesday night, and He is taken down after the cross, and now we have three days that He has to be in that tomb.

Here is how we figure the days:

- He is taken off the cross at six o'clock Wednesday night.
- Six o'clock PM Wednesday night to six o'clock PM Thursday night will be the first day.
- Thursday night, six o'clock, to Friday night, six o'clock, will be the second day.
- Friday night, six o'clock, to Saturday night, six o'clock, will be the third day.

He comes out of the tomb Saturday night after six o'clock PM, which is "even," which is the first day of the week, or Sunday to us. Then He appears to everybody on Sunday morning, sometime around six AM, 12 hours later. Now there is the complete week laid out for you that shows you there is no Good Friday. The reason why they get into a Good Friday is because they do not understand the biblical system because their tradition has made the Word of God of none effect.

VIII. Conclusion: The Servant's Attitude and God's Work

Mark 16 deals with the Great Commission given to the apostles for Israel, the signs and the wonders. It is interesting to note that the NIV takes out the last 12 verses of Mark chapter 16, so you cannot follow it, or at least they put a footnote at the bottom of it. So what we have here is we have the complete layout of Christ from the last week, understanding the concept of the servant promoted.

This is why you and I can never let the Word of God become of none effect. This is why you and I have to constantly work and develop the attitude of being a servant. I do not care where you are at, I do not care how young you are in the Lord. There is something you can start to do if you are willing to do it. From that, God takes it.

Moses became the greatest leader of the nation of Israel and probably the greatest guy in the Old Testament. He starts out, when God first meets him, he is scared to death, does not know what to do, cannot talk, does not know anything about the Bible, does not know anything about anything. He says, "How in the world is Pharaoh going to listen to me?" God says, "Moses, what do you have in your hand?" He says, "Well, I have a shepherd's crook." God says, "Well then, we will use that, won't we?" He threw that shepherd's crook down, it turned into a snake before Pharaoh, he picked it back up, he struck the waters and turned it into blood, he brought all the plagues down with that stick. My point is this: he did not know much. Some of you do not know much, but God will just take what you have in your hand today and He will start right there. The problem is not God; the problem is you, and where you will be and what you will do.