

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR

(Mark 10: 35-45)

Intro: Be careful what you ask for.
-You just might get it.

I don't know where that saying originated.
-I wasn't able to track that down.

I learned it from that maven of popular psychology.
-Ann Landers.
#Whether it originated with her.
*I don't know.

I wonder if it couldn't have originated with Jesus.
-As he responded to James and John's request.
#To sit next to him in his glory.
*One at his right.
*One at his left.
-Jesus might very well have said:
#"Be careful what you ask for."
*"You just might get it."

I. It Happened On The Way To Jerusalem.

A. Jesus Had Just Made His Third Passion Prediction.

1. Remember that I told you there are three Passion Predictions in Mark's Gospel.
 - a. Mark 8: 31.
 - b. Mark 9: 31.
 - c. Mark 10: 33-34.
-Verses immediately preceding our Gospel Lesson for today.
2. Why does Jesus have to repeat the same lesson three times?
 - a. Because his disciples have selective hearing?
 - b. Because they are slow learners?
3. Three times he tells them:
 - a. He must suffer many things.
 - b. Be killed.
 - c. On the third day be raised.

- B. In Response James And John Ask Jesus For A Favor.
1. They want to sit next to him in glory.
 - a. One at his right hand.
-One at his left.
 - b. One to be Secretary of State.
-One to be Chief of Staff.
 2. Did you ever call dibs on the front seat?
 - a. Next to your dad.
-My mom didn't drive.
 - b. Next to your buddy.
 3. In the days before we became more safety conscious.
 - a. Before:
 - Car seats.
#For children.
 - Seat belts.
#For everybody.
 - b. My sister would sit in the front seat.
-Between my parents.
 - c. My brother and I.
 - Would sit in the back seat.
 - Would lie in the back seat.
 - Would jump around in the back seat.
 - Would fight in the back seat.
#"Mom, he's on my side."
#"Mom, he looked out my window."
 - d. Whenever there was an occasion.
 - Dad had to run an errand.
#Mom wasn't going along.
 - My brother and I would compete.
#To see who got to sit up front.
 - We would try to be the first to call:
#"Dibs on the front seat!"
#"Front seat, shot gun!"
 - That was the place of honor.
#Up front.
*Where you could see better.
#Up front.
*Next to your dad.
 4. When we started driving.
 - a. Our friends got their own car.
-I never had a car.
#Until I went to seminary.
 - b. Our friends got their parents' car.
-To go to the Friday night football game.

- c. Several of us might ride together.
 - We'd call:
 - # "Dibs on the front seat!"
 - # "Front seat, shot gun!"
 - Up front was the place to be.
 - # Especially if your buddy's '57 Chevy.
 - * Was a two-door.
 - * Not a four-door.
 - + It was bad enough sitting in the back seat.
 - = This was before:
 - Dating.
 - Girlfriends.
 - + But you had to get into the back seat.
 - = Not an easy maneuver.
 - For someone with long legs.
- 5. Riding shotgun was the place of honor.
 - a. If you weren't the driver.
 - b. But where does that expression come from?
 - From the Old West.
 - From the days of stage coaches.
 - # Riding shotgun meant:
 - * Riding up front.
 - + Next to the driver.
 - + Warding off:
 - = Bandits.
 - = Thieves.
 - = Robbers.
 - * If there were:
 - + Bandits.
 - + Thieves.
 - + Robbers.
 - = Who would they shoot at first?
 - The guy riding shotgun.
 - # Be careful what you ask for.
 - * You just might get it.
- 6. Jesus had just told his disciples:
 - a. For a third time.
 - b. About being:
 - Mocked.
 - Whipped.
 - Killed.

7. James and John wanted to ride shotgun.
 - a. Jesus said:
 - "Be careful what you ask for."
 - # "You just might get it."
 - "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?"
 - "Are you able to be baptized?"
 - # "With the baptism that I am baptized with?"
 - "Are you able to face?"
 - # "My fate."
 - # "My destiny."
 - b. James and John said:
 - "No sweat."
 - "Bring it on."
 - "We're able."
 - c. Jesus said:
 - "Be careful what you ask for."
 - # "You just might get it."
 - "The cup that I drink."
 - # "You will drink."
 - "With the baptism with which I am baptized."
 - # "You will be baptized."
8. So it was.
 - a. At least for James.
 - If not for John.
 - b. James is the only one of the "12."
 - Except for Judas.
 - Whose fate we know from the New Testament.
 - # James was beheaded by Herod.
 - * Acts 12: 1-2.
 - c. Others we know about from:
 - Tradition.
 - Early church fathers.
 - # Didn't always agree one with another.
 - But I'll share one list.
 - # Based on the writings of:
 - * Hippolytus.
 - * Eusebius.
 - + 3rd-4th centuries.
 - # Andrew.
 - * Crucified.
 - # Bartholomew.
 - * Crucified.
 - # James, Son of Alphaeus.
 - * Stoned to death.

#John, Brother of James and Son of Zebedee.

*Fell asleep.

*Died of natural causes.

+At Ephesus.

#Matthew/Levi.

*Fell asleep.

#Simon Peter.

*Crucified upside down.

+By Nero.

+In Rome.

#Philip.

*Crucified.

#Simon the Zealot.

*Fell asleep.

#Thaddaeus.

*Fell asleep.

#Thomas.

*Thrust through with a spear.

+In India.

- d. So of the "12."
 - Maybe 1/3 died of natural causes.
 - But the other 2/3 met a violent death.
- e. Do you want to ride shotgun with Jesus?
 - Be careful what you ask for.
 - #You just might get it.

II. But Christian Discipleship Is Not About Riding Shotgun.

A. Thank Goodness.

- 1. We may think that our Christian faith should bring us:
 - a. Security.
 - Not suffering.
 - b. Privilege and power.
 - Not problems.
- 2. Look at who got the places of "honor" when Jesus entered into his glory.
 - a. Two criminals.
 - One on his right.
 - One on his left.
 - b. Jesus in the middle.
 - Giving his life as a ransom for many.

B. Christian Discipleship Is About Service.

1. It's not about riding shotgun.
 - a. In fact, maybe it's not about riding at all.
 - b. Maybe it's more about:
 - Opening the doors.
 - Hauling the luggage.
 - #Not for Jesus.
 - *He has already hauled the baggage of our sin.
 - +All the way to:
 - =Jerusalem.
 - =Cross.
 - =Grave.
 - *He has already opened:
 - +Door.
 - +Kingdom of Heaven.
 - =To all believers.
 - #But for one another.
 - #For the "many."
 - *For whom Jesus gave his life.
2. Serving one another as:
 - a. Greeter.
 - b. Usher.
 - c. Musician.
 - d. Singer.
 - e. Lay reader.
 - f. Projectionist.
 - g. Communion assistant.
 - h. Altar guild member.
 - i. Check writer.
 - Contributor.
 - Treasurer.
 - j. Lawn mower.
 - k. Light bulb changer.
 - l. Newsletter compiler.
 - m. Bulletin folder.
 - n. Sunday School teacher.
 - o. Soup supper.
 - Chef.
 - Server.
 - Dish washer.
 - p. Etc.
 - q. Etc.

3. But I hope our service doesn't end here.
 - a. On Thursday evening.
 - Bishop Floyd.
 - Synod staff.
 - b. Convened:
 - Pastors.
 - Lay representatives.
 - #From congregations in our conference.
 - #For a Visit/Listen/Share session.
 - *So that the synod staff could hear.
 - +How things are going for us.
 - *So that we could hear.
 - +How things are going for:
 - =Synod.
 - =Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - c. As we were:
 - Doing Bible study.
 - Sharing.
 - #One person at my table said:
 - *"I wonder how we can get more people through our doors?"
 - #Another person on the other side of the table said:
 - *"I wonder how we can get more people out of our doors?"
4. Jesus calls us.
 - a. Not to be served.
 - b. But to serve.
 - We serve.
 - #Not just when we're gathered.
 - *As on Sunday mornings.
 - *That is important.
 - #But when we're scattered.
 - We serve.
 - #Not just corporately.
 - *Like through our Helping Hands Food Pantry.
 - #But individually.
 - *In your home.
 - *In your family.
 - *In your school.
 - *In your work place.
 - *In your volunteer activities.
 - *In your social gatherings.
 - +That's also where you live out your:
 - =Faith.
 - =Discipleship.
 - +That's also where you serve.

- We have received an invitation.
 - #From Bethany Lutheran Church.
 - *To consider discussions.
 - +That could lead to a possible merger.
 - #We've scheduled a congregational meeting.
 - *For November 8.
 - *To talk about that.
 - #I'll be interested to hear what you have to say.
 - *I don't have an agenda to push.
 - +I don't think.
 - *Church Council doesn't have an agenda to push.
 - +I don't think.
 - #But I would like to prime the pump.
 - *Some of you might be thinking about the question:
 - + "How do we keep our doors open?"
 - = Reasonable question.
 - *I'd like to suggest another question to think about:
 - + "If we were to close our doors,"
 - = "Would the community miss us?"

Concl: For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,"
- "And to give his life as a ransom for many."

