Mark - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 3, Child Abuse

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MARCH 10

And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in Me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

Mark 9:42

It's a VERY, VERY serious thing in God's sight to offend a child. Child abuse is rampant in our society. Unfortunately, it's becoming more and more of a problem among Christians. As potential baby sitters (and later, after marriage, maybe parents), I appeal to you to treat your young charges as precious jewels. NEVER mistreat them in any way - especially sexually.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MAR 8:6

He . . . gave thanks . . . and gave to His disciples to set before them; and they did set [the food] before the people.

Mark 8:6

Here we have team work in service. All the disciples were working together to help the Lord in His provision of a meal for several thousand people. Sometimes it's easier for a young person to work with others in public witness for the Lord; serving at a gospel supper, going to sing at a retirement home, etc. You personally may not say anything. But you are serving by helping. Keep it up!

CareLines: Volume 3, God's Word

MAR 8:2-3

They have now been with Me three days, and have nothing to eat; and if I send them away fasting . . they will faint by the way.

Mark 8:2, 3

What an example these people are to us! They so hungered after the words of eternal life that they followed Jesus into the wilderness without taking enough physical food for the journey. Some were so hungry after three days that they would not have made it home if they didn't have a meal before they left. Jesus does not forsake or disappoint those who cast themselves on Him. They had put their lives into the hands of Jesus and it was in those hands that the loaves and the fishes were multiplied. Jesus will not let us down either. He'll provide for our needs - according to His riches.

CareLines: Volume 2, Healing

MAR 8:22

They . . . besought Him to touch him.

Mark 8:22

O, for a touch from the Lord! How wonderful to be touched by Him. His touch brings life. It brings healing. It brings joy. In our verse today the touch of Jesus brought sight to a blind man. Let Jesus touch your eyes to see His beauty. Let Him place His hands on you and fill you with His love.

Dear Young People, We're beginning another year of CARELINES! Some of you wrote to us last year and were a real encouragement to us. We're so glad that you're getting something out of this calendar. We've changed the format a little this time. Hope you like it. If you have topics that you would like some help on, write to us. We'll try and find a verse to cover the situation.

Perhaps this year will see us all together in heaven. The signs are everywhere that the Lord is coming. Keep yourselves in the love of God and watching for His Son. May the Lord bless you in your life for Him.

CareLines: Volume 7, Praise

He hath done all things well.

Mark 7:37

When we think about our salvation and what it cost Jesus to have us with Himself; when we consider the awful suffering that Jesus went through on our behalf; when we reflect on Calvary, and His death, burial, resurrection and ascension - our hearts just overflow in praise and we can also say, “He has done all things well.”

CareLines: Volume 7, God’s Ways

[The executioner] went and beheaded [John] in the prison.

Mark 6:27

John the Baptist had spent his adult life in faithful service for God. He had preached, and warned, and baptized, and spoken the truth of God to all. And yet God allowed him to be beheaded. God’s ways are not our ways. He often allows things in our lives that we do not understand nor can figure out. But we can be sure that God makes no mistakes and is working all things for His glory and the blessing of His people.

CareLines: Volume 3, Herod

MAR 6:20

For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Mark 6:20

Herod’s wife wanted John the Baptist executed, but Herod respected John. He called John in from time to time and listened to him. John faithfully reproved Herod, and Herod changed his life in many ways. But Herod was not willing to give up one treasured sin. A sin that is not judged and finished with will dull the conscience. Herod eventually had John beheaded. With no further restraint of conscience, Herod crowned his life of sin by being involved in the death of Jesus. Beware of sin harbored in your life. Confess it to the Lord and forsake it before your conscience gets hardened.

CareLines: Volume 7, Faith

Be not afraid, only believe.

Mark 5:36

This was the message that Jesus gave to Jairus and his wife after the death of their 12-year-old daughter. Sickness had led to death. Death brings fear. Jesus gives power to overcome fear. John says in his letter, “Perfect love casts out fear.” Jesus was that perfect love. And so Jairus and his wife watch in amazement as their daughter is raised back to life by the Creator of life, the Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 3, He Cares

MARCH 14

And He took the damsel by the hand.

Mark 5:41

The Lord took a personal interest in the troubles of others. He was indeed that Good Shepherd that gave His life for the sheep. A command from the Lord 20 miles away could have raised this 12-year-old up. But Jesus went with her father into her room and took her by the hand. Jesus will take you by the hand too and raise you up when you’re down. He really does care!

CareLines: Volume 3, Tell Everything

MARCH 6

But the woman fearing and trembling . . . came and fell down before [Jesus], and told Him all the truth.

Mark 5:33

Do you think you can hide anything from the Lord? Of course you can't! He delights in you telling Him everything. He loves personal fellowship with you. He wants you to have confidence in Him. The woman, in our verse, was scared to death, but the Lord's response was, "Thy faith hath made thee whole; GO IN PEACE." That's the heart of Jesus, to give peace to a troubled soul. Trust Him!

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship

MAR 5:6

But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped Him.

Mark 5:6

This man was eager. He had seen the Lord, even from a distance, and couldn't get to Him fast enough. When you really see Jesus you too will be eager to fall at His feet in worship. Perhaps you're so busy you didn't even recognize the Lord. How thrilled the Lord must have been to see this man in our verse running to meet Him. How it thrills the Lord's heart today to see His own gathered around Him for the purpose of worshipping Him. Let your heart overflow today as you meet with Jesus.

CareLines: Volume 3, Afraid? Why?

MARCH 4

Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?

Mark 4:40

The disciples' faith had just been through a major test - and they all flunked! They hadn't yet learned that Jesus had everything in control even though they didn't think He did. When we learn the fact that the Lord is still in control, still on His throne in resurrection power, then our faith in times of testing will pass - because we trust in Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MAR 16:15

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

What a service! What a responsibility! How do we respond to the Lord's request. Perhaps we are not able to physically go, but we can help those who do, through prayers and financial support. I realize that this command was made to the eleven apostles, but it does not relieve us of our responsibility to get the gospel out to the lost. There is not much time left to do it either. Jesus is coming soon. Let's be diligent in making the gospel available to those that need it so much.

CareLines: Volume 7, Peer Pressure

Pilate, willing to content the people, . . . delivered Jesus . . . to be crucified.

Mark 15:15

Pilate was torn between two options. On the one hand, he believed that Jesus was innocent of the charges brought against Him, and he wanted to let Him go. On the other hand, he wanted to be a popular governor and so he needed to please the people. The people won. Peer pressure persuaded Pilate to send Jesus to the cross. Peer pressure may influence you to do something or go someplace that is not pleasing to God. Beware of peer pressure.

CareLines: Volume 3, Failure

JULY 28

Peter followed Him afar off . . . and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

Mark 14:54

Peter learned a very valuable lesson here. You can't fellowship with the world and remain faithful to the Lord. His association led him to deny that he even knew Jesus. Be very careful, young Christian, as to who are your "friends". They can cause you to do things that your new nature would never even consider. Don't sit and warm yourself by the fires of the world, no matter how cold it is outside.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MAR 14:8

She hath done what she could.

Mark 14:8

How often we are faced with a problem which appears overwhelming! Nothing that we can do seems to make any difference. Mary was in such a situation as she anticipated the death of the Lord. She couldn't do much but she did what she could: she anointed the Lord with her precious spikenard ointment. The Lord will not ask you to do the impossible. Just do what you can and leave the results to Him.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: MAR 14:8

MAR 14:8

She hath done what she could.

Mark 14:8

The woman in our verse had poured an alabaster box of ointment on the Lord's head, much to the disgust of those eating with the Lord. But Jesus appreciated it. He recognized that it was done from a heart of love and He accepted it as an anointing before His death. The woman probably didn't know the full significance of what she had done, but the secret of service is to do it for the Lord. If it's done for self-gratification or self-glory, then the service won't be acceptable to the Lord. This woman's act, misunderstood and not appreciated by those around, got a high commendation from the Lord - "She hath done what she could." Oh that the Lord will be able to say that of each one of us.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: MAR 14:6

MAR 14:6

And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on Me.

Mark 14:6

What had this woman done that the Lord stood up for her so? She had poured out some ointment on His head! The guests at dinner complained against "such waste." But the Lord appreciated it VERY much. No work done for the Lord from a heart of love will lose its reward. Keep going, young Christian. Your field of service may be small; others may complain about what you are doing - they may condemn your actions - but if it's done for the Lord Jesus He notices, appreciates it, and will reward you.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MARCH 2

For the Son of man . . . gave . . . to every man his work.

Mark 13:34

So, you don't think that you have a service for the Lord? Our verse says otherwise. He gave to every man his work. You have a niche to fill that only you can fill. Don't shirk your responsibilities. You have been chosen (and at some time will go through God's school of preparation) to do a very necessary work for the Lord. You may not think it's much; others may not even know about it; but you need to do it anyway. Keep serving!

CareLines: Volume 2, Service

MAR 13:34

For the Son of Man is as a man . . . who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work.

Mark 13:34

Every man has been left a work; every woman, too. Each has been given his or her own sphere of service. We are responsible to do what the Lord has given us to do. He may have picked me to write this article. He may pick you to preach in a jail. He may pick someone else to go to Africa to the mission field. Each of us has something to do. A young sister may have the work of visiting a widow, or someone who is a shut-in, to do their shopping and just give them someone to talk to. It doesn't matter what the other person is doing for the Lord. Just make sure you do your part - the way He wants you to.

CareLines: Volume 3, Responsibility

OCTOBER 14

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

Mark 12:17

God expects us to pay taxes, keep the speed limit, and show kindness and respect to others. And He also expects us to give Him the honor that is due to Him as God without forgetting our earthly responsibilities. We have a responsibility to live honorable lives, devoid of offense, and we also have a responsibility to live our lives for the Lord.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MAR 10:13

And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them.

Mark 10:13

This service - of bringing young children to the Lord - was intercepted by the disciples. They meant well, but they didn't know the heart of the Lord. Children are very precious to Him. (We have to become as a little child in order to come to Him.) A friend of mine credits his children's Sunday school teacher with being the main influence in his children accepting Jesus as their Saviour. So for those of you who have a Sunday school class, keep telling them how to get saved. Bringing a child to the Lord is a great work and one that the Lord fully approves of.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: MAR 10:17

MAR 10:17

There came one running, and kneeled to [Jesus], and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do . . . ?

Mark 10:17

This young person was in earnest - he ran to the Lord. He was reverent - he kneeled in front of Jesus. He was respectful - he called Jesus Good Master. He needed an important question answered: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And when the Lord gave him his answer, he went away rejecting it because his money was more important than the Lord. Be careful that your worship is not just external, with all the right actions, attitudes, and responses, but inside there's no response of the heart. Man looks on the outward appearance. God looks at your heart. Worship the Lord today in spirit and in truth.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: MAR 10:45

MAR 10:45

The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

The Lord Jesus came to serve. His primary concern was to serve His Father. But He spent almost every waking hour serving others. He never tired in His service to man. His ultimate act of service was to give His life as a ransom. The Lord's example should be something that we should covet - the willingness to serve. Needs are everywhere. You don't have to look far to find someone who needs help. Are you willing to give it?

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