

The Son of Man

Daniel 7:2-14; Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-52

Main Idea

The Son of Man is the merciful true man who will rule over creation in a perfect kingdom.

Overview

Dominion is given to one like a son of man (Daniel 7:2-14)

- The book of Daniel contains some episodes from the life of Daniel, a Jew deported to Babylon around 600 BC
 - These episodes are used by God to reveal His view of what is going on and His plans.
 - The message of the book of Daniel is that God is sovereign over the world and that survival is predicated upon submission to Him.
- Daniel 7 relates a dream that Daniel had in the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, a dream which greatly alarmed him.
- In his dream, Daniel saw two different developments.
 - 7:2-8 – He saw four different beasts arising out of the sea. These beasts were ugly, looked quite dangerous and, especially the fourth one, was quite boastful (v8, 11)
 - 7:9-14 – It is really a scene of God Almighty, the Ancient of Days sitting on his fiery throne and giving dominion to one like a Son of Man who will rule all the earth and in whose kingdom the saints will be safe, happy and whole. The world will be all that it should be.
 - Notice the contrast between “beasts” and “son of man”. Beasts are not human, they connote ugliness and destruction. “Son of man” is supposed to mean “son of Adam”, “heir of Adam”, “real, true human being the way it was supposed to be”. (see also Gen 1:28)

Our hearts can't take the kingdom of the Son of Man (Mark 9:30-37; 10:35-45)

- The Son of Man came and the first fruits of His dominion revealed and our hearts couldn't take it.
- Instead of being focused on and concerned with Jesus, the disciples were more concerned about their position in Jesus' kingdom.
- These people knew Jesus was the king and they started putting together a government behind Jesus' back, arguing about who was the greatest (9:33-37).
- James and John even went to Jesus to get Him to give them the highest positions in the administration (10: 35-40-45).
- Even if the King is perfect, His kingdom can't be all that it needs to be without the heart of the people in the kingdom being transformed.

The right response to Jesus is that of a blind beggar crying in faith for mercy to the Son of Man (Mark 10:46-52)

- Bartimaeus was a blind beggar who heard Jesus was coming by.
- He cries out to Jesus – there is no desire to see Jesus proven a liar, there is no desire to justify himself, there is no desire to ensure for himself a higher position in the kingdom.
- There is the simple unadulterated request of a desperate man to the one who leads the kingdom of God.
- Bartimaeus cried for mercy, in faith, and it was given to him.

Questions

Discussion Starter: What has been helpful this Advent season to stir your affections for Christ and

cause you to anticipate his return?

1. Read Daniel 7:2-14. What do you notice about the kingdoms of the beasts? How does this compare to the dominion given to the Son of man?
2. How does Daniel's circumstance compare to our circumstance? What can we learn from Daniel?
3. Read Mark 9:30-37 and 10:32-45. What do you notice about the disciples in this passage? How are we like the disciples?
4. How does Jesus correct the disciples? What does this tell us about the nature of the Son of Man and his kingdom?
5. How does this Kingdom comfort you? Challenge you?
6. Read 10:46-52. Compare the response of Bartimaeus with that of the disciples. How can we be like Bartimaeus this Advent season?

Accountability: What are some ways you need the healing touch of the Son of God?