



Gospel of Mark Bible Study

Session #13 January 19th – 24th Mark 10:32-52

Tuesday 6am @LW – Tuesday 5:15pm @AV

Wednesday 10am & 6:15pm @LW

Sunday 10:30am @AV

Jesus Again Predicts His Death - Mark 10:32-34 Life Application Notes

10:32 Because Jesus had just spoken to them about facing persecution, the disciples were astonished as they thought about what awaited them in Jerusalem.

10:33-34 Jesus' death and resurrection should have come as no surprise to the disciples. Here he clearly explained to them what would happen to him. Unfortunately, they didn't really hear what he was saying. Jesus said he was the Messiah, but they thought the Messiah would be a conquering king. He spoke to them of resurrection, but they heard only his words about death. Because Jesus often spoke in parables, the disciples may have thought that his words on death and resurrection were another parable they weren't astute enough to understand. The Gospels include Jesus' predictions of his death and resurrection to show that these events were God's plan from the beginning and not accidents.

Study Questions:

1. What attitudes do people in our society have about dying?
2. Why was there such a range of strong emotions on this trip? (10:32)
3. What important news did Jesus tell the Twelve once again about what would happen to Him? (10:32-33)
4. How did Jesus say He would die? (10:33-34)
5. When has God ever led you down a road which you felt uncomfortable or frightened about?
6. How can you trust God more fully to lead you through difficult circumstances in the future?
7. What is one difficult situation that you need Jesus to lead you through this upcoming week?

The Request of James and John - Mark 10:35-45 Life Application Notes

10:35 Mark records that John and James went to Jesus with their request; in Matthew, their mother also made the request. There is no contradiction in the accounts-mother and sons were in agreement in requesting honored places in Christ's kingdom.

10:37 The disciples, like most Jews of that day, had the wrong idea of the Messiah's kingdom as predicted by the Old Testament prophets. They thought Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom that would free Israel from Rome's oppression, and James and John wanted honored places in it. But Jesus' kingdom is not of this world; it is not centered in palaces and thrones, but in the hearts and lives of his followers. The disciples did not understand this until after Jesus' resurrection.

10:38-39 James and John said they were willing to face any trial for Christ. Both did suffer: James died as a martyr (Acts 12:2), and John was forced to live in exile (Rev. 1:9). It is easy to say we will endure anything for Christ, and yet most of us complain over the most minor problems. If we say we are willing to suffer on a large scale for Christ, we must also be willing to suffer the irritations that come with serving others.

10:38-40 Jesus didn't ridicule James and John for asking, but he denied their request. We can feel free to ask God for anything, but our request may be denied. God wants to give us what is best for us, not merely what we want. He denies some requests for our own good.

10:42-45 James and John wanted the highest positions in Jesus' kingdom. But Jesus told them that true greatness comes in serving others. Peter, one of the disciples who had heard this message, expands the thought in 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Most businesses, organizations, and institutions measure greatness by high personal achievement. In Christ's kingdom, however, service is the way to get ahead. The desire to be on top will hinder, not help. Rather than seeking to have your needs met, look for ways that you can minister to the needs of others.

10:45 This verse reveals not only the motive for Jesus' ministry, but also the basis for our salvation. A ransom was the price paid to release a slave. Jesus paid a ransom for us because we could not pay it ourselves. His death

released all of us from our slavery to sin. The disciples thought Jesus' life and power would save them from Rome; Jesus said his *death* would save them from sin, an even greater slavery than Rome's. More about the ransom Jesus paid for us is found in 1 Peter 1:18-19.

Study Questions:

1. In what way does society pressure us to seek status and power?
2. What did James and John want from Jesus? (10:37)
3. How did Jesus answer James and John's request? (10:38-40)
4. How did Jesus explain to James and John the impossibility of granting what they had requested? (10:39-40)
5. How did the other disciples react to James and John's request? (10:41)
6. In what ways do we vie for power and authority?
7. How can you become a servant of others?
8. What specific act of service could you do this week for someone else?

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight - Mark 10:46-52 Life Application Notes

10:46 Jericho was a popular resort city rebuilt by Herod the Great in the Judean desert, not far from the Jordan River crossing. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem (Mark 10:32), and, after crossing over from Perea, he would naturally enter Jericho.

10:46 Beggars were a common sight in most towns. Because most occupations of that day required physical labor, anyone with a crippling disease or disability was at a severe disadvantage and was usually forced to beg, even though God's laws commanded care for such needy people (Leviticus 25:35-38). Blindness was considered a curse from God for sin (John 9:2), but Jesus refuted this idea when he reached out to heal the blind.

10:47 "Son of David" was a popular way of addressing Jesus as the Messiah, because it was known that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David (Isaiah 9:7). The fact that Bartimaeus called Jesus the Son of David shows that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah. His faith in Jesus as the Messiah brought about his healing.

Study Questions:

1. When has persistence paid off for you?
2. Why did the people rebuke the blind man? (10:48)
3. How did the blind man respond to the criticism from the crowd? (10:48)
4. How did the crowds of people treat Bartimaeus after they found out Jesus had called for him? (10:49)
5. When have you persistently prayed for one particular request? What happened?
6. What does it mean to be persistent in prayer?
7. What is one request that you will commit yourself to pray for regularly this week?

Bible Memory Verse: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45