

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING

A Study of the Gospel According to Mark

Mark 10:32-52

Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 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 10:43-45

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.

Read through this week's passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

Read Mark 10:32-34.

1. Despite knowing what awaits him in Jerusalem (vv. 33-34), Jesus leads the way there.
 - a. What is his frame of mind? (Isaiah 50:7; Luke 9:51)

 - b. What are the attitudes of the disciples and the others who follow along? (v. 32a)
2. For the third time, Jesus privately tells his disciples what will happen to him in Jerusalem. Read and compare Mark 8:31, 9:31, and 10:33-34. What details does Jesus include this time that he left out before?

Read Mark 10:35-45.

3. "The earlier dispute about status and rank among the disciples (9:34) was silenced but not buried."¹ What do you suppose James and John think their request of Jesus in verse 37 would mean for them if Jesus granted it?
4. What do James and John fail to understand about Jesus' mission and their role as his disciples? (Consider Mark 8:33-38; 9:35.)
5. Why do you think the other disciples "became indignant with James and John" (v. 41)?

6. How does Jesus respond to James' and John's request? (v. 38)

7. Both "cup" and "baptism" (v. 38) are symbols of suffering and trouble.²
 - a. What Old Testament imagery lies behind Jesus' use of "cup"? (Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-18)

 - b. What do Psalms 42:7 and 69:1-2, 15 suggest about this "baptism"? (📖* Romans 6:3-4)

 - c. What does Jesus have in view when he speaks of these things? (vv. 33-34; Mark 14:35-36; Luke 12:50; 📖 Isaiah 53)

8. In verse 37, James and John wanted a shortcut to glory, as we all do. But what is the prerequisite for sharing in Christ's glory? (Romans 8:17; 1 Peter 4:13)

9. Mark writes in one other place of positions at Jesus' right and his left. In what context does this wording appear? (Mark 15:27)

"When Jesus is at the actual moment of his greatest glory, there *will* be somebody on the right and the left, but they will be criminals being crucified. Jesus says to John and James: *You have no idea what you're asking.*"³

10. Again Jesus challenges the world's definition of greatness (vv. 42-45).
 - a. Why should "servant" or "slave of all" be the position of a follower of Christ? (v. 45; John 13:12-17; Philippians 2:3-8)

 - b. How well does the thought of this sit with you? Explain.

11. Why did Christ “give his life as a ransom” (v. 45)? (John 8:34-36; 1 Timothy 2:5-6a; Hebrews 9:15)

How does knowing that you have been ransomed by Christ affect the way you live?

Read Mark 10:46-52.

12. Describe Bartimaeus, the man Jesus encounters as he leaves Jericho? (vv. 46-48)

How does he respond when Jesus calls him? (vv. 49-50)

13. Jesus asks Bartimaeus the same question he asked James and John – “What do you want me to do for you?” (vv. 36, 51). Compare and contrast their answers.

How would you answer Jesus if he asked you, “What do you want me to do for you”?

14. Jesus recognizes Bartimaeus’ faith. What is Bartimaeus’ response to being given sight? (v. 52)

“The close of chapter 10 sets the stage for the climax of the story. The journey to Jerusalem is ended. Jesus is about to enter the Holy City where the last acts of the drama of redemption will take place. His opening the eyes of the blind man stands in sharp contrast to the blindness of the religious leaders he is about to encounter there.”⁴

This lesson on Mark’s Gospel is adapted from “Life of a Servant” by New Life Glenside Women’s Bible Study, 2002–2003.

*☞ indicates the passage is for further study.

¹ David E. Garland, *Mark*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 410.

² Walter W. Wessel, *Mark*, The Expositor’s Bible Commentary with the New International Version: Matthew, Mark, Luke (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 720.

³ Timothy Keller, *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016), 159.

⁴ Wessel, 722.