

Discussion Guide

Week of May 19, 2013

Mark 10:32-52

Passage Overview:

Chapters 9–10 of Mark describe the journey of Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem. In these chapters Jesus explains what it means to be his disciple. This teaching is built around three predictions of his death (8:31; 9:31; 10:32–34). We learn that to follow Jesus is to accept the way of the cross—a life of service and sacrifice. Specifically, in 10:35–45, James and John come to Jesus seeking positions of glory and power. Jesus responds by telling them that they must share his suffering before they can share his glory. Mark then links this with the story of Bartimaeus (10:46–52), who is physically blind. But James and John have their own sort of blindness: they need to “see” what it means to follow Jesus.

Understanding God’s Word—Read Mark 10:32-52.

- Compare 10:32 to 9:31 and 8:31. What new details and concepts does Jesus add to the teaching about his death?
- In vv35-45, what do James and John ask for? What will James and John experience first?
- What does Bartimaeus do in response to Jesus restoring his sight (v52)?

Living and Applying God’s Word

- What does James and John’s request—and Jesus’ response—teach us about prayer?
- “The cup” and “the baptism” are images in the OT used to refer to ordeals and suffering (e.g., Isa 51:17-23, Jer 25:15-17; Ps 69:2, 15). To what degree do we share in them with Jesus (vv38-39)?
- The restoration of Bartimaeus’ sight is the last healing miracle that Mark reports in his gospel account. Why do you think Mark places it here? How is Bartimaeus a good example for us?

Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- How does the question (v35) and request (v37) of James and John show that they still don’t understand the meaning of the cross, of “glory” and of “greatness”? How does Jesus define “glory” and “greatness”? How is this in opposition to how our culture defines these terms?
- In v45, the word “ransom” assumes that we are in captivity and bondage to sin.
 - What is Jesus saying about us when he says he dies to ransom us?
 - How does the idea of “ransom” highlight that Jesus came as a *substitute* for us? Read **Isaiah 53:2-12**. How does this expand the idea that Jesus came as our substitute?
 - Why is this so important?

Prayer: Remind yourself of the seriousness of your sin: in order for you to be saved, the Son of God had “to give his life as a ransom” for you. Then praise God that he has delivered you from sin’s penalty and bondage through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray also for Nick and Dianna Cash as they serve with Mercy Ships off the coast of Africa.

Announcements

- Kid Keepers—paid childcare workers for church events/meetings (if interested, email sigourney@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Base Camp—for children entering 1st-6th grades (June 24-28; register today!)
- Child Dedication (June 9)—prerequisite parenting classes on June 2 at 8:45am (RSVP, sigourney@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Baptism Sunday (June 23)—contact wayne@insidecrosspointe.com