



## What Do You Want?

Community Study Guide: **Mark 10:32-52** –Week of March 3rd, 2024

### 1. Jesus set His face like Flint upon Suffering

Once more, Jesus tries to focus the attention of His disciples on what is about to transpire. For the third time, He prophesies for them the process for how His defining hour will transpire. His betrayal, His shame, His torture, His death, and ultimately His resurrection. In part, Jesus is doing this to be very clear with His disciples about His purpose. He has come to fulfill this purpose above all else. He has set His face like a flint toward the suffering, death, and resurrection that God the Father has commanded. Jesus was willing to lay down His own will, to submit Himself to the will of the Father. He willingly embraced the service of suffering for the Glory of God the Father.

### 2. James and John set their sights on Glory

To give a sharp contrast to the servant King who has come as a sacrificial lamb... James and John approach Jesus to request that He do whatever they ask. Jesus generously allows them to present their request. James and John want to sit near Jesus, and be to His right and left. While not itself a reproachable request, Jesus quickly shows how they have not considered the request fully. The brothers desire to be given authority but don't understand that the authority that Christ would give comes with suffering. Can James and John bear the cup that Christ would likewise drink? In the future, that cup would be given them. Them. However, that is not what determines the reward of authority. That reward has been determined by God the Father. He will assign who sits at Jesus' right and left. Jesus then instructs the disciples once more in the economics of authority within the Kingdom of God. Authority is given to those who serve, and those who serve are rewarded with authority. While James and John started seeking glory,

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

What you set your mind, desire, and affections on has a profound impact on your life. As Christians, we are called to seek God and His Kingdom above all else. Our aim and desire should be to bring honor to our Lord, obeying all He has commanded us.

### Heart

Obeying the King can be challenging. Many of us have disorder loves. God has called us to have a renewed heart, a renewed mind, and renewed desires. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God can transform us, so that we might want and desire what is good.

### Hands

Set your sights on Jesus. Let Him be the greatest love in your life. Apply the Word of God to your mind, preaching its truth to your confused and disordered heart. Ask the Lord to transform your heart and mind through His power.

Jesus taught them to seek service.

### **3. Bartimaeus sets his sight upon Jesus**

To give us an example, we have the story of Bartimaeus right after that of James and John. Bartimaeus is a blind man, living in darkness. He hears that Jesus is coming, and he responds in the only manner he has available to him... he cries out to the Lord. He pleads with King Jesus to have mercy on him; to have Jesus intervene in his lowly state. Jesus stops, interacts, and heals Bartimaeus of his blindness. Bartimaeus presents us with an example of how we should approach Christ. We have nothing and can do nothing but throw ourselves at the mercy of the King. Praise God, that all those who come to the King, ask for His mercy, and repent of their sins will find healing and new life in Him.

## Read Mark 10:17-31

1. Each one of us is a creature of desire. How is the battle for faith a battle for desire? Why is it important to rank your desires? What is the most noble object of desire?
2. What was Jesus' ultimate desire? How does His explanation of the events that would transpire in Jerusalem validate that desire as paramount?
3. How is greatness and authority different in the world versus the Kingdom of God? Why, in a practical use sense, is authority within the Kingdom of God superior to that of the world?
4. Compare and contrast how James and John approach Jesus to the approach of Bartimaeus. How are they different? What is correct or incorrect about each approach? How do each of their approaches show us about our own condition?
5. What is Jesus referring to when He talks about the drinking of the cup and baptism? Did James and John understand what He meant? Could they really do what they thought they could?
6. What did Jesus mean by stating that He came to "give His life as a ransom for many?" Who was that ransom paid to? How was it paid?
7. How can you apply Jesus' instruction in verses 43-44 to your own life? Where are you needing to grow in your service?