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Concerning Jesus - Mark 10 ~Aaron McRae

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

► CONVERSATION STARTER

Who or what do you think has the most influence in our culture today?

► EXPLORATION

As we begin to look at Mark chapter ten, we will see four different stories where Jesus is showing the disciples what a life surrendered to God looks like. We start with an encounter that Jesus has with religious leaders. They want to see if he will pick sides on a controversial debate about divorce. Some leaders thought it was okay to divorce for any reason, and some thought it should only be permitted in the case of adultery. But Jesus sees through their question and goes to the heart of the matter.

Mark 10:2-9 (From your bible, read aloud)

The leaders wanted to focus on the technicalities that Moses allowed, but Jesus goes all the way to the beginning of Genesis and reminds them that marriage is a work of God. It is a covenant between a man, a woman and God. It is a sacred union requiring faithfulness. The central figure in marriage is God.

In our culture, divorce has become a convenience. We must be careful not to overlook the devastating impact it has on our world.

Matthew 19:10-11 (From your bible, read aloud)

Whether you are married or single, Jesus is calling you to trust him with your future. If you are married, Jesus offers you the spiritual stamina not to just get married but to stay married. If you are single, Jesus offers you spiritual contentment if it is his will for you to stay single.

Jesus calls us to a life of **FAITHFULNESS**.

How do you think our faithfulness to Jesus impacts our faithfulness to others?

As we move further into chapter ten Jesus uses an unexpected example to illustrate a powerful truth.

Mark 10:13-16 (From your bible, read aloud)

In ancient times children were often seen as insignificant and unimportant. But Jesus sees them differently. He blesses the children, giving them dignity and value. Even though they have nothing to offer him because they are weak and vulnerable, Jesus raises them up and sets them as an example of how we are to treat those who are often overlooked in society.

As adults, we may be tempted to strive for independence. Jesus shows us that in order to follow him, we must be fully dependent on him, just like a child is dependent on a parent.

Jesus calls us to a life of **FAITHFULNESS** and **DEPENDENCE**.

In what area of your life do you find it difficult to trust God?

Jesus continues to instruct the disciples in the way to live.

Mark 10:17-22 (From your bible, read aloud)

The wealthy man walked away from Jesus. Even though he followed all the laws, Jesus knew that his heart was not fully surrendered. The man acknowledged that Jesus was a “good teacher” and asked what he needed to do, but he didn’t like the answer.

Jesus wasn’t calling the man into poverty; he was calling the man to follow him. He saw that the man’s wealth was more important to him than following Jesus. Jesus was calling him to discipleship.

Wealth can be a powerful motivator in the way we live, and it can be a stumbling block to our spiritual growth if we are not careful.

“There is something radically wrong with all of us and money has a particular power to blind us to it.”

~Tim Keller

Jesus is calling us to live a life of **FAITHFULNESS**, **DEPENDENCE** and **SACRIFICE**.

When it comes to finances, in what ways are you demonstrating sacrifice to Jesus?

Mark 10:35-39 (From your bible, read aloud)

James and John make a bold request of Jesus. They are still thinking in ways that were more shaped by their current culture than the ways of Jesus. They wanted power and status more than they wanted to be like Jesus.

Mark 10:41-45 (From your bible, read aloud)

When the other disciples heard about the request of James and John they got upset, probably because they wished they had thought of it first. But Jesus helps them to see that their desires for power are misguided.

“The 12 are summoned to become the compassionate community and to recognize that the performance of an act of compassion as an expression of pure devotion to Jesus is at one and the same time worship and service.”

~William Lane, The Gospel According to Mark

Somehow the disciples had missed the point of what Jesus was doing and what following Jesus would require of them.

Matthew 28:20 “...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The example Jesus set for the disciples showed them what a life of service looked like. They wanted a life of power, Jesus offered greater power than they could have imagined, but it was lived out through service.

Jesus is calling us to live a life of **FAITHFULNESS**, **DEPENDENCE**, **SACRIFICE** and **SERVICE**.

In what ways are you currently serving others?

► TAKE AWAY

Jesus calls each one of us to live a life that is marked by faithfulness, dependence, sacrifice, and service. He showed us what that looked like throughout his life.

- **FAITHFULNESS**- Jesus was faithful to God in every way, even when it cost him his life.

How does faithfulness to God reveal itself in your relationships to others?

- **DEPENDANCE**- Jesus came to earth as a baby, demonstrating ultimate dependance on God.

How does dependance on God deepen your compassion toward others?

- **SACRIFICE**- Jesus is the Son of God and had access to all the riches of heaven, and yet he sacrificed himself for us.

How does joyfully choosing to sacrifice shape your heart to be more Jesus centered?

- **SERVICE**- Jesus served God by loving us and giving his life for us. He didn’t come to be served, but to serve.

How do loving acts of service reinforce your good intentions to follow Jesus?

Pray together, asking God to help you live as a faithful follower of Jesus this week. Get specific about the areas that you know need growth. Come ready to share about your experience with the group next week.