

“DO YOU SEE WHAT JESUS WANTS YOU TO SEE”?
(Changing Your Perspective on Baptism)
Mark 10:13-52

INTRODUCTION: We celebrate today with those who are being baptized as followers of Christ. For some, it is like a vow renewal, because of a deeper understanding of their commitment to Him. How often do you reflect on what it means to be a follower and disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you ever pay attention to the different ways Jesus helped people to change their perspectives on what it may cost to follow him? Are you sure you are seeing the things the Lord wants you to see?

BACKGROUND: The events recorded in Mark 10 take place as Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to suffer as He paid the price for our sins. He had been teaching life lessons along the way, and His disciples were often slow to learn what He taught them. In Mark 8:24, Jesus gave sight to a man who, at first, saw what looked like “trees walking.” Jesus touched him again and healed his blindness. **WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSES HIS SOUL?**

There was a lot of tension caused by watching Jesus’ determination to go into a dangerous situation . **THE DISCIPLES WERE GOING WITH HIM TO JERUSALEM ASSUMING THEY MIGHT DIE THERE WITH HIM** (John 11:16)

I. CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE ATTITUDE NEEDED TO BE A DISCIPLE (Mark 10: 13-16)

- A. Learn the difference between being a childish adult and having child like qualities that are demonstrated by trust and obedience,
- B. The Lord Jesus is never too busy to welcome a child into His family. Make sure you do not get in the way of children who want to learn how to follow the Lord.

II. CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF YOU AND THE BLESSINGS HE HAS GIVEN YOU. (Mark 10: 17-31)

- A. The rich young ruler, like so many of us, assumed that God would be satisfied with him because he lived a good moral life. Christianity is much more than a list of what we should not do. What are you doing with what you have been given?
- B. Make sure your possessions have not taken possession of you!! Anyone with great wealth was assumed to have been blessed by the Lord and in good favor with Him, so the disciples were astonished when Jesus did not immediately receive him. (Some believe the rich man was Mark himself!) (Mark 10:21; Mark 14:51-52)
- C. Wealthy people have a tendency to place their trust in what they have and struggle to realize how desperately they need the Lord. Whatever you sacrifice to follow the Lord cannot compare with what you receive in return. (One hundred “fold” is more than one hundred times!)

III. CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON WANTING THE GLORY WITHOUT PAYING THE PRICE (Mark 10:32-45)

- A. James and John (and their mother) tried to leverage their biological relationship with Jesus to obtain favorable positions in the Kingdom. We seldom know what it might cost us to get what we think will give us glory.

B. Jesus warned of a baptism by water that had nothing to do with Him. Some experiences in life are overwhelming spiritually and emotionally. God uses them to develop Christ-like character in us.

1. To baptize means to “dip”, “place into”, “submerge, or identify with.” There is water baptism, (Acts 8:35-38) Spirit baptism, (1st Corinthians 12:13) and becoming overwhelmed with difficult experiences. (People call that a “baptism by fire” (Mark 10:38-39). Jesus knew James and John would suffer greatly for following Him. (Acts 12:1-2) (Revelation 1:9)

C. Do not make the mistake of wasting years preparing for something when the Lord has something *else* prepared for you. You will never run well in shoes that do not fit! The Lord wants to get you ready for what *He* has ready for you, so you can run your race well.

IV. CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE ULTIMATE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL SIGHT (Mark 10:46-52)

A. Many people have fallen into desperate situations from which they were once well respected. (Bartimaeus means “son of honor.” Yet, he found himself in the dishonorable position of having to beg for help and unable to work for a living. Has life knocked you down?

B. Bartimaeus had heard about the Messiah. He knew he may never have another chance to encounter him due to his circumstances. He would not let anyone discourage him! Are you desperate for Jesus? What makes you think you might get another chance to encounter Him?

C. Take comfort in knowing that Jesus hears your voice when you call out to Him with the right attitude and intention. Do not let anything hold you back from getting close to Him. The rich young ruler did not want to let go of his many possessions, while Bartimaeus did not let his valued possessions hold him back. (Luke 18:18-25)

D. Jesus asked Bartimaeus the same question he asked James and John. (Mark 10:34) What would you say to Jesus if you had one prayer that needed to be answered by the One that can do anything?

E. Bartimeaus knew the value of sight, spiritually and physically. He proved that his eyes had been opened to see what was most important because he immediately chose to follow Jesus.

ARE YOU SEEING WHAT THE LORD WANTS YOU TO SEE? IF YOU ARE NOT A FOLLOWER OF JESUS, YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY BLIND, WALKING IN DARKNESS AND DANGER. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW HIM, HE WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED MOST.

*Dr. Ronald J. Morrison
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