

“Demonstrating Kingdom Realities”

“A Journey with Jesus” — Part 18

Mark 10:35-52

Introduction: Have you ever poured your heart out to someone, literally bearing your soul, only to have them ask, *“Would you like the ham or turkey sandwich?”*

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Mark 10:32-34

1. A lust for greatness

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

Mark 10:35-40

***The lust for greatness is a two-sided coin.
One side is ambition;
the other side is jealousy.***

- How could James and John be asking about thrones in light of Jesus' announcement about His death?

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

Matthew 19:28-30

- Jesus chooses to teach them the meaning of true greatness.

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Mark 8:34-35

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him...

2 Timothy 2:11-12

2. Division in disciple-ville

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, 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 10:41-45

- John and James are conspiring for top positions in the coming Kingdom.
- A power struggle threatens to destroy the unity of the group.
- Power as a standard of greatness is corrupting.
- Jesus establishes servanthood as His standard of greatness.

"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 10:45

"Instead of seeking more power...seek greater opportunities to serve. I mean go where few people see you, get your hands dirty doing what no one else will do, and tell no one you did it. When we can do this on a regular basis, and give no thought to recognition, then we can call ourselves servants..."

Chuck Swindoll—Pastor

15 Miles to Jerusalem

3. A beggar becomes a disciple.

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:46-52

- The crowd
- The beggar
- The title

... "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Mark 10:47

- The call to faith

... "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

Mark 10:49

- The show of faith (Rabboni—an expression of personal faith)

Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

Mark 10:50-51

- The result of faith

... "your faith has healed you."

Mark 10: 52a

- The walk of faith

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:52b

Application: In terrifying times, when blinded by bitterness, confession is most helpful. Bartimaeus didn't scream for Jesus because he was tired of being blind; he screamed for divine mercy because he needed to be rescued from sin. Tragically, there are many who live their lives never seeing how dark the darkness is within them. Blind Bartimaeus saw his need for a soul Savior. "*Rabboni, I want to see!*" Are these words you need to say today?