

## **“How Hard Can it Be to Follow Jesus?”**

*Mark 10<sup>35-52</sup>*

### **Introductory Question**

**Q** – When you were young, what did you dream of doing or being when you grew up? Did your family encourage or discourage your dream(s)?

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) **Read Mark 10:35-52.** What do you think sparked the request James and John made of Jesus (v.37; cf. Matt. 20<sup>20</sup>)? What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “You don’t know what you are asking”?
- 2) What does Jesus mean by the cup he is to drink and the baptism he is to be baptized with (vv.38-39; cf. the other two occurrences of “cup” in Mark 14:23 & 14:36)?
- 3) How did the rest of the disciples feel about James & John’s request (v.41)? Why?
- 4) Given what Jesus has repeatedly (8<sup>31</sup>; 9<sup>31</sup>), and recently (10<sup>33-34</sup>) said about what will happen to him when they arrive in Jerusalem (vv.32-34), why do you think the disciples keep jostling for first place (cf. 9<sup>34</sup>; Lk 22<sup>24</sup>)?
- 5) What indications were there of the real source of the disciples’ leadership model?
- 6) Who has been an example to you of a Christlike servant? What effect has that person had on your life?
- 7) While Jesus has repeatedly said *how* he will die, what does v. 45 tell us about the purpose of his death?
- 8) From the brief account in verses 46-52, what kind of man does Bartimaeus seem to be?
- 9) Why do you suppose Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted him to do for him (v.51; cf. v.36)?
- 10) Why did Jesus mean when he said, “Your faith has healed you.”
- 11) In what way, or ways, is Bartimaeus a model disciple?
- 12) If Jesus asked you, “What do you want me to do for you?” what would you say?

**Matthew 20:17-34**

<sup>17</sup> Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them,

<sup>18</sup> “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. <sup>21</sup> “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” <sup>22</sup> “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, 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 by my Father.”

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—  
<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

<sup>29</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. <sup>30</sup> Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” <sup>31</sup> The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”  
<sup>32</sup> Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. <sup>33</sup> “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

**Mark 10:32-52**

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup> who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” <sup>36</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” <sup>38</sup> “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?” <sup>39</sup> “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, <sup>40</sup> 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.”

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> 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.”

<sup>46</sup> Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” <sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” <sup>52</sup> “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

**Luke 18:31-43**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; <sup>33</sup> they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.” <sup>34</sup> The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

<sup>35</sup> As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” <sup>38</sup> He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup> Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>40</sup> Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, <sup>41</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord, I want to see,” he replied. <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”  
<sup>43</sup> Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.