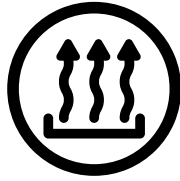




The Gospel of Mark



WARM-UP

What is the bravest thing you've witnessed in your life?



What happened last time in March chapter 10?

Possible Answers: Pharisees try to trick Jesus with a question about divorce, Jesus blesses little children and shares that people must embrace to belief like that of a child, a rich young ruler struggles to grasp what Jesus is teaching, and Jesus is the better rich young ruler who gives all He has for us.

Read out loud as a group

MARK 10:32-45 (NIV)

³² 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. ³³ "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, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

³⁸ "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?"

³⁹ "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, ⁴⁰ 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."

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



What stands out to you?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



The disciples, knowing something was coming and still apparently confused about what Jesus was saying, are primarily concerned with their own positions. What are the traps in our own lives that make it easy for us to get caught up with ourselves and miss the lessons of Jesus?

Possible Answers: May vary. Culture is very self-oriented. Thinking about how we come across rather than what Jesus might be doing. Etc.



In verse 32, It says “Jesus was leading the way”. Can you imagine the courage it would take to walk toward your gruesome death AND walk in front of your friends? In what ways does Jesus’ courage strengthen you?

Possible Answers: Jesus walks in front of us when we face hard things too! He literally goes before us!

Read out loud as a group

“In this final passion prediction, Jesus states that he will be handed over to the nations. This is tantamount to being delivered over to the wrath of God. Just as Israel was once delivered over to the nations, under the wrath of God, so the Son of Man, the suffering servant, the Christ, will be handed over into the hands of the nations by Israel’s leaders. “

- The Cross from a Distance by Peter G. Bolt, pg 48-49



This 3rd prediction of Jesus’ death brings in the addition of being handed to the Gentiles (i.e. nations) as well as being humiliated. Why is this significant?

Possible Answers: like the black box states, it is literally Jesus taking the place of the Israelites so He is handed over to the nations instead of them, rejected by both the Israelite leaders and Gentiles which starts to put them in the picture of salvation as well! Jesus came for the Gentiles too! It would have been really unbelievable for the disciples to hear that the Messiah would be turned over BY religious leaders TO the Gentiles, almost the worst of the worst. Fulfilling OT prophecies (including Isaiah 53).

Read out loud as a group

MARK 10:46-52 (NIV)

⁴⁶ 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. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.



Based on the passage, what can we deduce about Bartimaeus’ faith?

Possible Answers: He recognized and acknowledged who Jesus was (Son of David and Rabbi), he was determined to reach Jesus, he didn’t let others stop him from getting to Jesus, he emphasized mercy which shows humility, he was bold in his request and knew that Jesus could do it.



The world will tell us to be quiet. How can we call on Jesus all the more?

Possible Answers: May vary.



In contrast, in what ways do we, perhaps subtly, discourage desperate or “undignified” expressions of need in our spiritual lives?

Possible Answers: May vary.



In this story, who do you most identify with today: the crowd, Bartimaeus, or even the disciples? What does that reveal about your own posture toward need, mercy, and following Jesus?

Possible Answers: May vary.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- In what ways can you boldly pray to the Lord this week?
- Vs 52 says that Jesus said “go” and the man “followed Jesus along the road”. The man chose where to go, he wanted to follow Jesus. In what ways can you remind yourself that the best way to go is with Jesus?