

Serve, or Be Served?... That Is The Question

Mark 10:32-52 (page 703)

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Jesus Predicts His Death for the T h i r d Time (10:32-34)

- Jesus gives them the l o c a t i o n, the e v e n t s and the r e s u l t. (vs 33-34)

Jesus Teaches That S e r v i c e Leads to P o s i t i o n (10:35-45)

Their R e q u e s t (vs 35-37)

- They wanted p o s i t i o n and h o n o r.

Jesus' R e s p o n s e (vs 38-44)

- “*Cup*” = In OT, it is often a symbol of God’s w r a t h or j u d g m e n t. (Ps 75:8; Isa 51:17,22; Jer 25:15-17,27-28; 49:12; 51:7,etc)
- “*Baptism*” = in OT, a metaphor for being overwhelmed or immersed in s u f f e r i n g or c a l a m i t y. (Job 22:11; Ps 18:16; 42:7; 69:1-2; Isa 43:2)
- Position in the kingdom is God the Father’s j u r i s d i c t i o n. (v 40)
- H o n o r and a u t h o r i t y in God’s Kingdom come by faithful and humble s e r v i c e today. (vs 41-44)

The Ultimate E x a m p l e (v 45)

- Greatness finds its clearest expression in s e r v i c e to others.
- “*Ransom*” = to r e l e a s e or to r e d e e m.

Jesus Gives S i g h t to a Blind Man (10:46-52)

This event provides a c o m p a r i s o n and c o n t r a s t between the *physically* blind Bartimaeus and the *spiritually* blind disciples:

- “*Bartimaeus*” = s o n of Timaeus/Timai. (A hybrid word from Aramaic *bar* = “son”, and Greek *timaios* = “h o n o r, h o n o r a b l e.”)
- James and John c r a v e d honor, but the “son of honor” sat w a i t i n g by the roadside. (v 46; cf v 37)
- Jesus asks the s a m e question in both situations. (v 51; cf v 36)
- Bartimaeus k n e w he was blind, the disciples d i d n ’ t k n o w that they were blind. (v 51b; cf 38-39)

This incident illustrates how Jesus will o p e n the s p i r i t u a l eyes of His disciples that were still clouded. (cf 8:22-26)

Do We Get It?

Am I more interested in b e i n g served or in l e a r n i n g to serve others?

How would I r e s p o n d to Jesus if He asked, “What do you want M e to do for you”?