

PART ONE: Blessed is He

Mark 10:32 – 11:11

Jerusalem was a dangerous place for Jesus. Jesus and His disciples had spent the last three years being very careful when it came to encounters with any leadership from Jerusalem, and now they were headed to the epicenter of trouble.

Read Mark 10:32-34.

1. **THINK:** Why do you think the disciples were amazed and afraid as they followed Jesus?

2. List the seven things Jesus told the disciples would happen to Him in Jerusalem. (v. 33-34)

3. What would He do in response? (v. 34e) _____

4. Read over these three verses again and record everything you learn about the character of Jesus, the power of Jesus, and how He relates to those He loves.

5. What can you learn and apply in your own life from the disciples' example in these three verses?

Read Mark 10:35-45.

This section of Scripture makes it clear that while Jesus had explained to His disciples what would happen to Him when they reached Jerusalem, they still struggled to make sense of it. They still saw Jesus' reign as king in Jerusalem as imminent.

6. Record what was on the minds of James and John as they traveled towards Jerusalem. (v. 37)

Jesus gave James and John a moment to consider what they were really asking for by asking a couple of questions of His own. Jesus sits with honor at the right hand of the Father, being God Himself and having shown His worthiness through His obedience and submission to His Father.

7. **THINK:** What do you think Jesus was referring to when He spoke of the “cup” and His “baptism”? (Matthew 26:36-42 and Romans 6:4)

8. James and John were not wrong when they proudly declared they were capable of sharing Jesus' fate. Both would face suffering and persecution for their dedication to Jesus and the Gospel. James would be martyred and John exiled to the isle of Patmos, but prominence in the Kingdom to come would be reserved for whom? (v. 40)

While admission to the Kingdom of Heaven is granted through faith and grace alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), position in the Kingdom will be given based on one's faithfulness to Christ on earth. So, Jesus used this opportunity to remind them that their time would be put to better use by concerning themselves with the here and now.

9. Compare how worldly rulers treat themselves and others with how “those who will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven” treat themselves and others. (v. 42-44)

10. Consider Mark 10:45 and record what Jesus has done for you personally.

Read Mark 10:46-52.

11. What was Bartimaeus declaring about who Jesus was and what He could do when he said, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me”? Consider 2 Samuel 7:12-16 when answering.

12. How did the crowd react to Bartimaeus crying out to Jesus and why do you think they reacted this way?

13. Are there people in your life who hinder you from calling out to the Lord, be it in prayer time or in taking time each day to spend in the Word? If so, what will you purpose to do about it?

14. How did Bartimaeus handle the crowd’s opposition? (v. 48)

15. What two things did Jesus do when He heard Bartimaeus’ call? (v. 49)

16. **THINK:** Why do you think Jesus called Bartimaeus to come to Him versus Jesus walking over to Bartimaeus?

17. What question did Jesus ask James and John (v. 36) and Bartimaeus (v. 51)?

18. How did each answer this question? (v. 37 and v. 51)

James and John _____

Bartimaeus _____

19. **THINK:** If Jesus were to ask you this same question and your answers were limited to the ones given by James and John or the blind man, which answer would you choose and why?

20. Record how Jesus responded to each of their requests. (v. 38 and v. 52)

James and John _____

Bartimaeus _____

Well (Whole) – to save, keep safe and sound, rescued from danger or destruction

The word *well* in verse 52 is translated *whole* in the King James Version. Bartimaeus' faith in Jesus had made him whole. He did not need anything else from Jesus! He had been made whole, lacking nothing.

21. What did Bartimaeus do with his newfound sight? (v. 52)

If any of us are to receive from Jesus, we too must answer His call. We must get up, throw off our excuses, leave our comfort zones, and follow Him without concern over where we are going or what is in it for us once we get there.

Jesus would now turn His attention to His disciples to make sure they were ready and prepared to follow Him into Jerusalem and back out again into all the world, sharing the truth and the good news of Jesus.

Read Mark 11:1-11

Jesus and His disciples continued to make their way closer and closer to Jerusalem. A city whose population tripled during the Passover Feast as Jews from all around traveled there to celebrate.

22. Read the following verses and record the predominant wishes of Jesus on each occasion. (Mark 1:44, Mark 3:12, Mark 7:36, Mark 8:26)

Stopping just two miles from the city limits of Jerusalem, Jesus will now put the wheels in motion to ensure He will be crucified on Passover according to God's will, even though the religious leaders had made plans to wait and deal with Jesus after the Passover celebration.

23. **THINK:** None of the four Gospels mention the names of the two disciples sent to get the colt for Jesus.

What do you think Jesus demonstrated to these two disciples by telling them where to find the colt and giving them the answer to a question that had not yet been asked?

Read and record the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9.

What could these disciples have concluded as they returned with the colt and remembered how the former kings of Israel had ridden such an animal when they were proclaimed king (1 Kings 1:33-35), coupled with the prophecy made in Zechariah 9:9?

Note that when these two men returned from this mysterious errand, they immediately threw their clothes over the colt's back and lifted Jesus onto its back. (Matthew 21:7) What do you think they were saying to Jesus with their action?

Why do you think Jesus may have sent these two disciples to run this particular errand?

We all have different experiences in life, but oftentimes, they are orchestrated to bring about the same outcome. These two disciples left the others to go get a donkey. In the process, they experienced the omniscient power of Jesus and came back knowing, without a doubt, that He was their Messiah and King.

24. Think back over your own relationship with Jesus and recall the times He has used circumstances in your life to grow your understanding of who He is.

Since the beginning of His ministry, Jesus had been careful to keep His notoriety to a minimum. But now He chose to enter Jerusalem, not in secrecy but with a crowd waving branches and crying out, “Hosannah! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

25. Even in His coming into the city and declaring Himself to be King of Israel and Messiah, Jesus chose to come in humility. Compare and contrast Jesus’ triumphal entry through His ultimate victory with those of a Roman conqueror.

Roman Conqueror	Jesus
Celebrated for their victories in war	
Wore a crown of laurel dressed in purple with gold-embroidery	
Face painted red like the most powerful god, Jupiter	
Rode in a four-horse chariot with his army, captives and spoils of war	
Required the killing for 5,000 enemies	Acts 4:4

Having arrived at the Temple, Jesus takes a look around at the status of things and leaves — but, He will be back to deal with all that He saw.

PART TWO: A Closer Look at Being First or a Servant

Mark 10:43-44

Read Mark 10:43-44.

Jesus brought up this subject several times during His ministry. We have encountered similar verses in Mark two previous times.

26. Fill in the blanks using Mark 10:43-44.

If you desire to be _____, you will be a _____.

If you desire to be _____, you shall be _____.

27. Read Mark 9:35 and fill in the blanks.

If you desire to be _____, you shall be _____ and _____.

28. Read Mark 8:35 and fill in the blanks.

If you desire to _____ your life, you will _____. But if you _____ your life for Jesus' sake you will _____.

29. Reread Mark 8:35, 9:35, and 10:43-44. What took place or what was said right before Jesus made these statements?

30. Summarize the general idea of what Jesus is saying in these verses.

31. Read Mark 10:45. Why did Jesus come?

32. Read Philippians 2:5-11 and answer the following questions.

How is Jesus described in verse 6?

List all that Jesus did according to verses 7-9.

How does this relate to what He taught in Mark 8:35, 9:30, and 10:43-44?

Jesus willingly became a servant, denying all the privileges He had. He did not desire to be first or great. What was the result? (vs. 9-11)

Jesus is the perfect example of being a servant of all. He denied Himself, He humbled Himself, and did not seek greatness. He picked up our cross and served to the point of death, and today - He is exalted on high.

33. **THINK:** In what areas of your life could you be seeking greatness, or being first? Could it be in your family, your work, your reputation, or even in your ministering?

Remember what Jesus said in Mark 10:24 about how difficult it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? It wasn't the riches that made it difficult; it was the attitude of the heart.

34. Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Mark 8:34. How do these verses relate to desiring to be great and/or first versus choosing the right attitude of the heart, that of a servant?

35. Now apply these verses to your own life. (Refer to question 33).

36. Look up the following verses and write down what you learn about being a servant.

Luke 22:27

Romans 12:1

Galatians 1:10

When we lay up our treasures in heaven, our focus is on what is to come – eternity with Jesus. We must look to His example and stop striving for worldly status. Our hearts should reflect His. He came to serve and give His life. In this world, we will have tribulation; in this world, we must deny ourselves and follow Him.

37. Read John 12:25. What is the hope we have? Write down your heart's response to this verse.

38. Read Romans 8:18. Where must we set our sights?

39. Go back to Philippians 2. Reread the command in verse 5a. What must we do in order to live according to Jesus' statement in Mark 10:43-44? Finish your lesson by writing out a response to having the mind of Christ.
