

Chapter Ten

JESUS' CALL TO GENUINE SERVANTHOOD



WHERE IS JESUS?

1. Jesus starts at Capernaum.
2. Jesus, the disciples and some Jewish pilgrims begin the journey south to Jerusalem for the Passover.
3. Jesus crosses the Jordan River into the Decapolis and Perea.
4. Jesus heals Bartimaeus just south of Jericho.

OVERVIEW: The journey to Jerusalem and the cross begins in earnest for Jesus and the disciples as chapter 10 marks the end of their ministry in Capernaum. It is time for the Passover and Jesus, the disciples and a group of Jewish pilgrims are on their way to Jerusalem. Along the way, they encounter another group of Pharisees who, again, are intent on tripping Jesus up by asking Him about whether it was lawful to divorce. Jesus ultimately answers their question, but not the way they were looking for. Instead of giving them an easy way out, Jesus raised the bar when it comes to marriage.

He went on to teach the crowd that it takes a childlike faith to receive the salvation He offered and enter the Kingdom of God. This is followed by an interesting encounter Jesus has with a rich young man who is earnestly seeking the Kingdom. When Jesus tells him to sell all he has and then come into the Kingdom, the man goes away sad because he has great wealth. It is clear that the man's "god" was money—not Jesus!

Jesus predicts His coming death for the third time, but the disciples still seem to be clueless about what He is telling them. Incredibly, James and John actually get into an argument about which one will sit on Jesus right (the place of honor) when they enter into the Kingdom. Jesus explains that the true path to greatness is the path of servanthood. He says that the one who serves is greater than the one who is served. This is another teaching that turns the societal values upside down. Jesus illustrates this teaching perfectly when He

stops on the way to the cross to heal blind Bartimaeus.

Read Mark 10:5-9.

- ? Divorce in the first century was legal for a Jew, but only because their sinful nature had been accommodated by the teaching of Moses. God's ideal was that one man and one woman would be joined by Him in a lifelong covenant relationship.

Read Mark 10:10-12.

- ? The Pharisees taught that a Jewish man could divorce his wife for pretty much any reason and was free to marry again without committing adultery. Jesus exposed this teaching by explaining that a man was just as obligated to be faithful to his wife as she was to him.

Read Mark 10:18.

- ? "Good" The Greek word used here is **agathos**, which literally means "useful or beneficial." It is a moral term and Jesus uses it here to point out that only God is truly good.

FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY:

1. What differences to you see concerning the issue of divorce between Jesus and the Pharisees?

2. What do you consider to be the “cost of following Jesus” in your life?

7. How do you see your life measuring up to Jesus’ definition of greatness?

3. The rich man went away said because of his great wealth. What barriers are blocking you from being a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ?

4. What do you think it means to accept the Kingdom of God like a little child?

4. How have you seen God help you to overcome these obstacles?

5. What questions do you think went through the minds of the disciples as they followed Jesus down into Jerusalem?

5. Why do you think James and John were arguing about their place in the Kingdom?

6. Read verse 38. What do you think Jesus was referring to when He mentioned the cup and the baptism He was going through?

6. Why do you think Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Jesus to do for him?

7. What are some of the costs you face or might face as you walk the "road to Jerusalem" with Jesus?

8. Read verse 51. What question did Jesus ask Bartimaeus? How would you respond if Jesus were to ask you the same question?

FOR YOUR GROUP STUDY:

1. What observations have you made in your study of Mark this week?
2. Are you more like the rich man or the little children when it comes you approaching the Kingdom of God?
3. What are the toughest obstacles you face when it comes to accepting the Kingdom of God like a child?