

KIDS BEING KIDS

Most of us know that kids are all about themselves. What examples or stories come to mind as you think about the self-focus of a child?

ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

At this point in our walk through Mark's account of the "Good news about Jesus," the focus is on teaching and shaping the twelve. Jesus is calling them to the life of a true disciple. As you read this week's brief passage, consider how each element of the story reflects God's call on our lives as Jesus' disciples.

Read Mark 10:32-52. What are the three 'stories' in this passage?

How would you describe Jesus' focus in the first story? What do we see in His character?

What contrasts do we see in the first two stories?

If this is who Jesus is, and we are to live as His disciples, what does this mean to be like Jesus? What statements stand out to you?

Many consider verse 45 the key verse in the book of Mark. What does it say about Jesus and about our calling?

How is the story of Bartimaeus a picture of discipleship to Jesus? (46-52)

In this place of Mark's good news, what are you thinking, feeling, or changing in your impression of what it means to follow Jesus?

We see a lot of 'group think' in the twelve disciples. What does this imply about how we make disciples? About how we live as disciples?

COMMENTARY NOTES

God's oversight in the writing of the Scriptures is amazing. Every word and picture matters. Notice these few meaningful examples:

32 – They were “going up to Jerusalem and Jesus was walking ahead of them.” Jesus was resolute about His destiny and the cost to “ransom” us. (see v. 45)

35 – James and John's request has the focus on “we” and “us” fivefold.

38 – The “cup” and “baptism” point to the cup of suffering and immersion into pain and sacrifice.

46-52 – Notice how the author (God) included key words and ideas to portray discipleship. When Bartimaeus heard that “he is calling you” and threw “off his cloak” (which was probably one of the few things he owned) and “he sprang up and came to Jesus.” By the way, just ahead, people are also going to throw their cloaks on the path where Jesus was riding on a donkey.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Jesus was trying to help the disciples and us to understand that a true disciple will sacrifice themselves for God and others. Reread verse 45 and consider this question: If Jesus is our master and we are His disciples, what does it look like to follow Him? I am challenged with this idea every day, daily, every 24 hours. My natural self wants to be about me; my disciple self wants it to be about God and others. I have only one solution: To trust in the leading of God the Holy Spirit in my days. As I talk with, listen to God, confess and submit, I can bless others and glorify God. When life is about me, I am like James and John asking what God can do for me.