

## Mark Chapter Ten (Part Three) – Teaching Notes

**Introduction:** A key idea in Mark is that Jesus is the servant of God. Today, we hope to discuss Jesus' preaching concerning His death and resurrection, ambition, and to a blind man.

**Body:**

**Read Mark 10:32-34**

**4. Concerning His Own Death and Resurrection.** Jesus tells His disciples what is going to happen. There will be a terrible death. But He will rise three days later.

**Applications –**

- **Trusting God more than people response.** Notice in vs. 32 that everyone is not on the same level. Some were astonished and others afraid, while Jesus was pressing towards the Father's will for His life. We can expect that people will respond to what God is doing in and through our lives in different ways. Even those who are closest to us and whom we expect to understand may not understand. It should be obvious why we should strain to make sure our steps are ordered by what we believe to be God's will and not simply opinion polls. Prayerfully studying and obeying God's word with Christian support can help us in this area. *Let's work on being led by God's will, not by public opinion.* For example, some singles need to follow God's will to stay single, instead of yielding to what people are saying that 30 something year old women should do. Some need to follow God's will for them to stay married, in spite of what people are saying about you can find someone better.

- **Making change a process.** Notice in vss. 32-34 that Jesus made the drastic events of resurrection weekend a process. He told His disciples several times what was going to happen. Also notice that even though Friday looked so bad, Sunday was in view. There are some challenges that we can handle better, when we know they are coming and prepare ourselves for them. We can definitely handle them better, when we see the good that is to follow. *Let's work on making change a process when we can.* For example, emptying your nest should be a process, not simply a shocking event at 18, 21, or no later than 25. Preparing for retirement should be a process, especially for men who gather so much of their identify from their work. However, even when change is a sudden event, let's remind ourselves that all things are working together for the good of God's people.

**Read Mark 10:35-45**

**5. Concerning Ambition.** James and John sought high seats in the kingdom. Jesus taught them about suffering. The father handles the seat assignments. Jesus taught the angry disciples about the need for service.

**Applications –**

- **Sitting in the right seats.** Notice in vss. 35-40 that there is a right way and wrong way to be a noted person in God's program. The wrong way is to engage in wicked deeds to gain seats of influence. The right way is to serve your way to the top, often through a series of episodes of suffering. First, make sure you have some drive to be better. Too many don't want to be much more than they are. This is sad. Second, make sure you pursue your desire to be greater in the right way. Since we reap what we sow, we should not do wicked and unethical things to get ahead. If we do, we run the risk of receiving the same and not being able to enjoy what we have secured by ungodly means. Third, develop the faith to endure the suffering that comes with the seat that God wants you to sit in. Too many are like thorny and stony ground. We allow the cares of this world or a lack of faith to distract us from bearing the fruit and carrying out the duties of the seat that God wants us to sit in. *Let's work on sitting in the seats and carrying out the duties that God has planned for us.*

- **Staying in the right lane.** Notice in vs. 40 that Jesus stayed in His lane. The Father, not the Son, handled seat assignments. A group of people can carry out many assignments, when there is coordination. Without coordination, a group can be a chaotic mess. When children take on the role of the parent and the parents compete with children for parental roles and authority, there is a mess. When employees and employers are battling over power and who does what, it can be a mess. When the church is known for power struggles and wicked negligence, there is a mess. *Let's work on staying in our lanes and carrying out our duties, in the groups that God has placed us in.*

- **Teachable moments.** Notice in vss. 41-45 that Jesus made the occasion into a teachable moment. While there was division and anger, Jesus taught about the need for service. It is often difficult to do, but it can be very helpful to try to learn from whatever is before us. *Let's look for the lessons to learn and lessons to teach others, based on the circumstances we find ourselves in.* For example, being forsaken by those you used to trust is a good time to learn at a deeper level that God will never forsake you. When disappointed with the results of your life, you can learn at a deeper level that God still has a blessed plan for your life. We should be careful about matching our attempt to teach others with their state of mind. Sometimes people are not in the state of mind to learn. Some cannot hear the lesson we are trying to teach, when they have divorce court, unemployment lines, or the intensive care room of their loved ones on their minds.

### **Read Mark 10:46-52**

**6. To Blind Bartimaeus.** Jesus is going about minister. Blind Bartimaeus begs for sight. Jesus heals his eyes. Bartimaeus follows Jesus.

### **Applications –**

- **Developing focus and faith.** Notice in vss. 46-52 that the blind man pressed passed the discouraging crowd and received his sight from the Lord. First, we must make sure that we are more focused on God, the doctor, than with patients and staff. Too many of us miss out on what God can do because we are distracted by others. Second, we should have faith in God's ability to do what is best for His people. Many times, being healed is best. But sometimes, being healed right now and the way we want to be healed is not what is best for us. In especially these times, we need to trust that God knows what is best for us. Prayerful study and obedience with Christian support can help us develop this kind of faith. *Let's work on develop the focus and faith to receive what God has for us.*

**Conclusion:** Let's work on being servants of God. God has much for those who obey His will.