

Mark 10:32-52 - Gives His Life as a Ransom for Many

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Introduction - If Jesus said to you, “What do you want Me to do for you?” how would you respond? Two groups of people had that opportunity in Jesus' ministry. One group presented a misguided request for honor, and another a desperate request to heal. Jesus demonstrates His willingness to give His life as a ransom and give grace to those in need. Everyone should embrace Jesus' offer of salvation, serve others, and share God's mercy with all in need.

v32-34 - “The Son of Man will be delivered over.” - [Matt 20:17-19; Luke 18:31-34] Jesus walked ahead and those following were afraid. Jesus was going knowing what awaited Him, and His followers didn't know what it would mean for them. He tells the twelve what will happen for the 4th time (8:31, 9:9, 9:31), but they don't get it (Lu 18:32, 34). The description indicates crucifixion (Matt 20:19). All Jesus says fulfills OT prophecy (Ps 22:6-8; Is 50:6; 52:13-53:12; Dan 9:26). Jesus' foretelling of events proves His divinity (Is 41:21-23, 46:9-1; Rev 19:10).

v35-45 - “Came not to be served, but to serve.” - [Matt 20:20-28] James and John and their mother (Matt 20:20) approach Jesus with a request to sit on His right and left in His kingdom. Jesus says this is not His to give (Matt 20:23), though they will share in His “cup” (Luk 22:42; Jo 18:11; Ps 75:8) and “baptism” of suffering. Both James (Act 12:2) and John (Rev 1:9) will suffer. Like Peter, they are confident even though they'll abandon Him. Jesus accepts their faith and doesn't criticize them. They will sit upon thrones in the coming kingdom (Mat 19:28). The other disciples were jealous of the prestige they sought. Jesus responds that the Gentiles vied for power, but the Kingdom of God operates on servant leadership. Instead of striving for prominence, we must make ourselves the least - kingdom economy is backwards (v31). Jesus came to serve and give His life as ransom for many. Ransom - “the price for redeeming”¹ or “release.” “Refers to a payment to effect the release of slaves or captives from bondage. It also includes the concept of substitution.”² All of us are debtors and criminals. We were captive by our sin, whose wages is death, but given freedom and life through Christ (Rom 5:12, 6:20-23; Heb 2:14-15). For - *anti* - “instead of, in the place of”² many, speaks of substitutionary atonement.

How do we serve in all the spheres of our lives? (work, family, neighborhood, church, etc.) What are ways that my own heart has adopted the world's view on what leadership looks like? How can I put on the compassion of Christ?

v46-52 - “Take courage. Get up, He is calling you!” - [Matt 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43] Mark skips what Jesus did in Jericho (Lu 19). He leaves Jericho with a crowd traveling to Jerusalem for Passover (18mi SW).² This is the last healing miracle recorded in Mark: will the disciples have eyes to see?² Matt 20:29-30 has 2 beggars, but Mark focuses on one (evidence of eyewitness testimony). Mark and Matthew say Jesus is leaving, but Luke says Jesus is coming. It's likely Jesus was approaching the new, Herod-built Jericho while leaving the old Jericho.³ Bartimaeus, the blind man, calls Jesus, “Son of David,” a Messianic title (Is 9:6-7; Jer 33:14-17; 2 Sam 7:12-17; Matt 1:1). “Take heart” *Tharseo*- Jesus said this to those He ministered to (Mark 6:50, 8:2, 9:22; Act 23:11), now the disciples repeat it!⁴ He throws off his cloak (for begging) with reckless abandon. Bartimaeus responds in faith, is healed, and follows Jesus. He and all the people praised God (Lu 18:43).

- What can we learn from Bartimaeus' faith? He cried out to Jesus despite the pressure not to, he recklessly abandoned all he had, he had total faith in Jesus' power to restore him, and he followed Him.
- “Take courage. Get up, He is calling you!” How can we better be ambassadors of this message to the world?

So, what? Now, what? “What do you want Me to do for you?” One group had a misguided request, another asked in desperate need. Jesus is asking that question to you today. How do you respond? If He asked Adam, what would he say? “Lord, forgive me and let me back into Your presence where I will not perish!” Jesus does what we could never ask of Him. He'll not make us beg Him to pay our ransom: it's already decided and accomplished that through the cross (Eph 3:20-21) if we come to Him in faith. Will you prayerfully seek to share this good news with someone this week?

¹ *Outline of Biblical Usage*. Larry Pierce.

² *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*. Walvoord and Zuck. Pg. 154.

³ *A Harmony of the Gospels*. A.T. Robertson. Pg 149.

⁴ *The Great Physician*. G. Campbell Morgan.