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## THE CROSS BEFORE THE CROWN

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MARK 10:32-52



What did Jesus do for us at the cross? Did he provide the way for us to be forgiven? Yes! Did he show the greatness of his love for us? Absolutely! Did he establish that God is a righteous Judge? No question! Anything else? Immense as these things are, Jesus does even more for us at the cross. The cross is God's final solution to the problem of sin and all of its consequences on sinners and the world we live in. It's God's way of undoing what's wrong with the world and with those whom God is calling out of it by his grace. Indeed, it's the only way what's wrong gets put right. Many make the mistake of thinking they can pick and choose what aspects of Jesus' ministry they favor. As with two of the disciples in our text, we must learn that you can't have Jesus without the cross. The cross is not just the way God saves sinners. It's the way God saves the world. Only Jesus could do it. Only Jesus has done it. Only Jesus deserves the reward for it. And if you would share in that reward, you must first take up your cross and follow him.

### ON CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP (10:32-45)

1. What events does Jesus say will occur after he and the disciples arrive in Jerusalem? What do James and John request of Jesus? What does this request reveal about how they view this journey?
  
2. What does Jesus' response to their request teach us about following him? What is unexpected about Jesus' teaching about a right view of Christian leadership?

3. Are you practicing Christian leadership right now in some relationship in your life? How can you better model the leadership of Jesus for others?

## WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM JESUS? (10:46-52)

James and John don't know what they're asking for, but Mark's reader, after a few chapters of waiting in suspense, will know it. When Jesus "sits in his glory," with one at his right and another at his left, he will not be wearing a crown of honor but of shame; not a crown of royalty but one of thorns. On his right and left, instead of esteemed heads of state, criminals will hang. Before the glorious ascension of Christ above all men comes the glorious humiliation of Christ on behalf of men.

4. Read Mark 10:46-52. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples come to Jericho, where Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, shouts at them. What does Bartimaeus want from Jesus?
5. What does Jesus mean by the question he asks Bartimaeus in return?
6. Imagine yourself as the blind man. We all have something that we know is getting in the way of our being the people we believe God wants us to be and made us to be. What is it you want Jesus to do for you?