



What would account for the ten being indignant toward James and John? Why were they upset?

Look back at Mark 10:13-16. There Mark uses the same word to describe Jesus' disposition toward the twelve that he used to describe the reaction of the nine to James and John. What is different about Jesus' "indignation" and that of the nine?

In responding to the indignation of the nine, Jesus explains more about His life and the implications of His life for their lives (Mark 10:42-45).

What does Jesus suggest they all already know?

Why would He begin with that?

Can you think of people who "lord it over" others? (The idea behind the language is to "rule by might!") Where do you see that kind of behavior?

Do you know people who "exercise authority over" others? (The idea behind the language is to "rule by right!") Where do you see that kind of behavior?

In contrast to these models of leading and living that are, apparently, widely recognizable, Jesus offers an alternative. How would you summarize Jesus' alternative?

What is the contrast that Jesus is pointing out? What does He want the twelve to really grasp?

Although you might not see yourself in a position of leadership, we all do use our influence in the lives of others around us. Being aware of that, do you think others see in you Jesus' approach to life and leading . . . or are you more like those "among the Gentile"? Why?

Day Five

Jesus is inviting us to share His life. The call He extends to His disciples is to join Him in His life. Notice how that is woven into what He explains to the twelve in Mark 10:42-45.

What is the disposition or attitude that Jesus longs for His followers to adopt?

Jesus is aware that His followers are hungry for "greatness"; they want their lives to matter. He doesn't dismiss that but redirects that. Notice the emphasis in Jesus' words. What does He insist *must* happen for someone to experience the richness of greatness in the kingdom (10:43-44)?

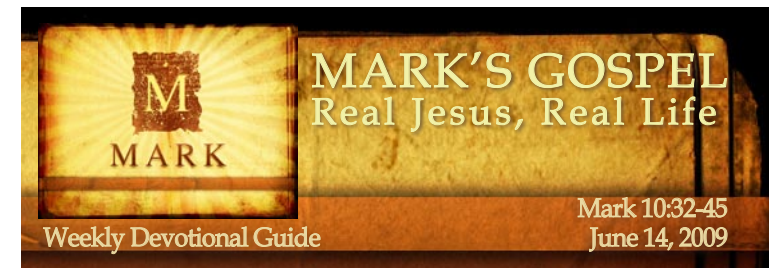
How do you feel about being another's slave or servant? Why?

Why would Jesus insist that such an attitude about life and disposition toward others was essential to experience life with Him?

In 10:45 Jesus anchors all that He is saying about "slavehood" and "servanthood" in His own understanding of His own life. Why is it that servanthood is to characterize each and every follower of Jesus?

How far will Jesus end up going in order to live out His own servant life?

How far will you go in following Jesus into this kind of life?



Day One

As Jesus heads on His way toward Jerusalem, He continues to explain to His followers what awaits Him (and by implication, awaits them) when He gets there. Read Mark 10:32-34.

What impression do you think these words would have had on Jesus' followers?

This is now the third time Jesus has explicitly spoken of His death. Do some comparison and contrasting between the three accounts: Mark 8:31-32; 9:31; and 10:33-34.

What do you see that is similar between the three accounts?

What notable differences are you aware of?

What kind of progression or build is evident between the three? What kind of development of thought is evident in Jesus' explanations?

What is the most striking new dimension or new idea added in what Jesus says in Mark 10:33-34?

Cumulatively, what is the impact of what Jesus is saying? What is He consistently underscoring for His followers?

What elements of Jesus' description of His imminent death do you really grasp when it comes to thinking about His having died for you? Which aspects do you think you under-appreciate or overlook?

Try and make some time to reflect on what Jesus has been saying about His death. Let the words turn over in your mind and heart. Build from those ideas and begin to talk with Jesus about what it is that He faced for you.

Day Two

One of the things that is easy to overlook as we read the Gospels is *how Jesus interacts* with His followers. We pay a lot of attention (rightly so) to *what* Jesus says; but sometimes we overlook what Jesus' exchange with others also reveals about Him. So, with that in mind, look at Jesus' exchange with two of the twelve in Mark 10:35-37.

What indications are there in the passage that might suggest why James and John made their request?

Let's look back at the recent past in Jesus' journey with the twelve. What do the following passages tell you about what the concerns of His followers might be?

Mark 9:28:

Mark 9:34:

Mark 9:38:

Mark 10:13:

Given that recent "track record," what else might you conclude about James' and John's request for prominent

places in Jesus' future kingdom?

Do you think Jesus was aware of what might be motivating James and John? Why or why not?

Assuming that Jesus *was* aware that James and John (and the other disciples) were still wrestling with jockeying for position and priority, what does it tell you about Jesus that He so readily asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?" (10:36)?

Even when our intentions might not be completely pure, Jesus still is willing to hear our requests and to offer His help . . . in appropriate ways consistent with His plans. Do you have questions or requests that you have been holding back from asking Jesus? Take time today to bring them all before Him . . . and let Him speak to you about what is on your heart.

Day Three

The way people speak often betrays something about what they are thinking. Let's contrast two ways of speaking and what it tells us about what is going on in the minds and hearts of the speakers.

First, read Jesus' words in Mark 10:33 and 39-40. What do these words tell you about . . .

How Jesus thinks about His own life?

What Jesus is focused on as He looks to the days ahead?

Now read James' and John's words in Mark 10:35-40.

What do these words tell you about . . .

How these disciples were thinking about their lives?

What James and John were focused on as they looked to the days ahead?

What are the most notable contrasts or differences you see between what has captured Jesus' heart and what has captured the hearts of these disciples?

Which attitude do find yourself identifying with most: Jesus' or the attitude of the disciples? Why?

How is the contrast between Jesus' attitude and the attitude of the disciples illuminated by what Jesus said in . . .

Mark 8:35?

Mark 9:35?

Mark 10:21?

In a very real sense, Jesus is only inviting us to view life the way He views life! His very life is the life He is inviting us to share; that means that the only view of life He can offer us is the one that shapes what He Himself says and does.

Day Four

After James and John make their request and Jesus replies, the other disciples get involved in the discussion. Pick up the account in Mark 10:41-45.