

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 6TH-7TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

## A DARK ROAD (MARK 10:32-34) THE DISCIPLES WERE GETTING FATIGUED

Jesus and the 12 had left Capernaum and were getting closer to very hostile territory. The 12 were tired, confused, and scared.

- In following Jesus, we will not only travel into “dangerous” territory, but we will have moments of weakness and doubt. What is important is that we **push through it**.

## THIRD TIME'S A CHARM?

After the encounter with the rich young ruler, Jesus tells the disciples a third time about His arrest, death, and resurrection. Each time, He adds a little more detail. In this account, He adds the mocking and torture.

- As we will see, the 12 still seem not to comprehend what is about to happen.

## IMAGINE HOW HARD THIS MUST HAVE BEEN

Though Jesus is fully God, He was also fully human. At this time, He was willingly walking into the most brutal torture, humiliation, and death one could imagine.

- He did this for us. **He loves us and chose to humble Himself in order to pay the price for our sin and rebellion.**

## THE EXAMPLE (MARK 10:35-45) BAD TIMING...

As they traveled, James and John approached Jesus and very insensitively asked if they could “sit at [His] right and at [His] left in...glory.”

- This was not only selfish and ignorant, but it also shows that they did not truly believe Jesus would be killed. They still thought He had come to build a new government.

## JESUS DID NOT REBUKE THEM

Though James and John were being selfish, Jesus still inquired about their desires and did not get upset with them because He knew they were loyal and loved Him.

- **Jesus considers our desires (Psalms 37:4) and shows us grace when we are selfish, but we must work to be more selfless.**

## “YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.”

The price for salvation has already been paid, but **authority, power, and prestige come at a very high cost**. Jesus assured James and John that sharing His honor would require sacrifice and suffering similar to His.

- **We often want huge rewards at little or no cost, but this is not a biblical principle.**

## “YOU WILL DRINK THE CUP I DRINK”

The “cup” was the divine judgment Jesus took on our behalf for our sin and evil. Similarly, **the disciples**

**would feel the wrath of evil because of their allegiance to Jesus.**

- **Look at the reward!** They drank from the cup, but they were also “baptized” like Jesus and have been glorified for eternity.

## THE OTHER DISCIPLES WERE FRUSTRATED

Matthew 20 says James and John's mom had a part in the conversation about their place near Jesus. So, either they talked too loudly or word got out about them asking Jesus for favoritism.

- In all fairness, the other 10 were probably “indignant” because they were jockeying for their own positions (we do this).

## CALLING A TEAM MEETING

Jesus knew there was tension and jealousy amongst the 12, so He called them together and contrasted the world's method for “success” with how to truly succeed in God's Kingdom.

- Again, we hear that **true greatness comes from great servitude and sacrifice for God and others.**

## “THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED”

Jesus presented Himself as the perfect example of how to live and serve. The 12 had seen Him **submit to God, touch the unclean, heal the sick, and feed the poor**. He would eventually **wash their feet**.

- **Jesus gave His life to be a “ransom for many,” and we are to try to model Him.**

## MERCY (MARK 10:46-52) “THEY CAME TO JERICHO.”

At that time, there were two Jerichos: the OT city and a new one constructed by Herod the Great. They were in the Herodian Jericho.

- This city was connected to Jerusalem by a very busy trade road, so it was an ideal place for beggars like the blind man Bartimaeus.

## “JESUS, SON OF DAVID...”

Bart heard Jesus was near and cried out “Son of David, have mercy on me,” which was a title for the Messiah and an obvious plea for His help. The people tried to keep him quiet, but Bart **did not let the crowd deter him**.

- **We must acknowledge our depravity and who Jesus is and cry out for His mercy.**

## FOR THE WORLD AND THE PEOPLE ON IT

People probably scolded Bart because they thought Jesus had bigger things to deal with. They thought He was going to restore a nation, but He had both bigger and “smaller” plans.

- Jesus' mission is not to save governments or nations but **to save people and restore earth to what He originally intended.**

## “HE THREW OFF HIS COAT”

A coat to a homeless man would have been invaluable, but Bart quickly **discarded it because it might have tripped him up on his way to encounter Jesus**.

- Contrast this with the rich young ruler who would not shed any luxuries in order to follow Jesus.

## BEING STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH JESUS

Jesus asked what Bart wanted, and immediately he said, “Rabboni...I want to see.” Of course Jesus knew, but He wants us to **acknowledge His authority and admit our need**.

- It is vital that we are **intentional** with prayer. Also, it is wise to **praise, repent, pray for others**, then **pray for yourself**.

## BECOMING A DISCIPLE

Bart's faith sparked his healing. Mark records, “Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.” Bart was healed and saved, and he became one of the disciples who followed Jesus into Jerusalem.

- **The main objective and reward is walking the road with Jesus.**

## WALKING THIS ROAD

- We are invited to spiritually walk with the Creator of the universe until He physically returns.
- In this life, truly walking with Jesus will lead us to adversity and even persecution. Jesus never alluded to His road as being easy, but it is very rewarding and fulfilling.
- Fortunately, Jesus has given us the perfect example of how to journey through this life. He models how to **submit to God, love others**, and **serve everyone**.
- He also empowers and guides us with the same Spirit He was baptized with during His walk. **We have help if we will trust Him.**

## THE REWARD OF WALKING THAT ROAD

- Will we humble ourselves and throw off anything that hinders our walk?
- We will stumble and be selfish at times, but if we love and stay loyal to Christ, **we will be restored and eventually be rewarded with the opportunity to literally walk with Him forever.**

## INTENTIONAL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD

- If we are going to be disciples, we must be **intentional** and **straightforward**, **hungry for knowledge, honest with our needs, clear and consistent with prayer, thankful for mercy and provision**, and **growing less focused on ourselves and more focused on Him and others**.