

KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

Week 11 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | March 15, 2015

Opening Up:

- Who is the most generous person you know? How are they generous?
- When are you most led to be generous? What are obstacles to your generosity?
- When have you been the recipient of a remarkable act of generosity?

Read (or reference): Mark 10:32-52

Discuss:

1. In 10:32, 9:31, 8:31 we discovered that Jesus came to die. Why is it important that we recognize that Jesus is not merely an example for us? What do these verse teach us about Jesus and his character?
2. How does the question in verse 35 and the answer in verse 37 illustrate how a follower of Jesus can have selective hearing? Why do you think James and John have selective hearing when it comes to the cross? Have you had selective hearing in the past? Explain. How do we guard against selective hearing when it comes to the teaching of Jesus?
3. How does greatness differ in the mind of James and John and the Gentiles from Jesus' view of greatness? How does our world view greatness today? How could you better embrace Jesus' definition of greatness?
4. Tim Keller wrote, "Here's the beginning of an answer: Jesus didn't have to die despite God's love; he had to die because of God's love. And it had to be this way because all life-changing love is substitutionary sacrifice." Do you agree that all life-changing love is substitutionary sacrifice? How is this quotation true?
5. In the message this week it was said that if you want to bring real systemic change, it will always require self-sacrificing love. In what ways could our city, your work place, and/or your home benefit from self-sacrificing love?
6. How does servanthood go against human nature? How does it compare with what advertisers compel us to think of ourselves?
7. It appears that James and John were looking to secure their future position with Jesus. They were looking for a guarantee. Jesus guarantees that they will drink and baptized in suffering for the sake of the Kingdom. How do Christians today share in the cup and baptism of Jesus referenced here?
8. Mark Edwards wrote, "The reason why a servant is the most preeminent position in the kingdom of God is that the sole function of a servant is to give, and giving is the essence of God." How this true? How should this affect the way we live? How can we as a community group be better at this? How can we as a church be better?
9. How does verse 48 help us to understand the nature of saving faith? How does it help us to understand sustaining faith?
10. Pray.