

March 12/13, 2005

Study Questions
The Good News About Jesus According to Mark
Making Sense of Life
Mark 10:32-52
Pastor Andy MacFarlane

Opening

1. When have you felt most fulfilled in life? What was so fulfilling about that time in your life?
2. When have you been most frustrated in life? What was so frustrating about that time in your life?

Bible Study

1. Read Mark 10:32-40. Why do you think the disciples were amazed by Jesus? Why was the crowd fearful of Jesus?

How do you explain the request of James and John in verses 35-37 in light of Jesus' teaching in verses 33-34? If you had been Jesus, how would you have responded to James and John? How does Jesus respond to James and John?

In verse 38, what do the "cup" and "baptism" represent? Do you think James and John understand the significance of these terms? Why or why not?

2. Read Mark 10:41-44. Are you surprised that the other ten disciples were upset with James and John? Why or why not?

In verse 42, how are the disciples like the rulers of the Gentiles? What is so ironic about Jesus' equating the disciples to the Gentile rulers (the Romans)?

Have you ever found yourself taking on the characteristics of people that you despise? How did you respond when you became aware of your hypocrisy?

According to verses 43-44, what is to characterize the use of authority in God's kingdom? How can we change from exercising authority for our own interests to exercising authority for the interests of others?

3. Read Mark 10:45. What most stands out to you about Jesus' model of servanthood?
4. Read Mark 10:46-52. Where was Jesus headed when He encountered Bartimaeus? Given His circumstances, do you think He was tempted to ignore Bartimaeus? Why or why not? Why do you think Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Application

1. What can you do to thank Jesus that He used His position of authority to serve you by dying on the cross?
2. In what areas of your life – work, family, or neighborhood – do you have authority or influence? Are you using your authority to serve your own interests or the interests of others?

What steps can you take to use your authority to further the interests of a friend, client, co-worker, and/or family member?

3. Are you involved in an area of service within the body? If not, what is one area in which you can serve? If you are not sure, sign up for the next Connections Class.

What is one way you can serve somebody outside the body of Christ this week?