



Mark 10

"I Once Was Blind"

(Mark 10:32-52)

Reading and Study Guide for the
week of June 18-25, 2023

Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark: *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* (Mark 8:34)

This week, read Mark 10. On Sunday, June 25: Pastor John will be preaching on the theme, "I Once Was Blind" (Mark 10:32-52). As Jesus attempts to prepare His disciples for His death, their spiritual blindness was similar to another's physical blindness. In order to see Christ's Kingdom clearly, Jesus must heal our blinded eyes in order for us to regain our spiritual sight.

Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

1. In what way does society pressure us to seek status and power?
2. How did Jesus refer to Himself? (10:33) When Jesus predicted His death and resurrection this third time, what else did He say would happen? How did Jesus say He would die? (10:33-34)
3. What did James and John want from Jesus? (10:37)
4. How did Jesus answer James and John's request? (10:38-40)
5. Why did the people rebuke the blind man? (10:48)
6. How did the blind man respond to the criticism from the crowd? (10:48)
7. How did the crowds of people treat Bartimaeus after they found out Jesus had called for him? (10:49)
8. How do Jesus' words to James and John change your attitude about power and authority?
9. How can you adopt Christ's example as your own? How can you become a servant of others?
10. When have you persistently prayed for one particular request? What happened?
11. What does it mean to be persistent in prayer?
12. What is one request that you will commit yourself to pray for regularly this week?

Life Application Bible Notes

10:33, 34 Jesus' death and resurrection should have come as no surprise to the disciples. Here he clearly explained to them what would happen to him. Unfortunately, they didn't really hear what he was saying. Jesus said he was the Messiah, but they thought the Messiah would be a conquering king. He spoke to them of resurrection, but they heard only his words about death. Because Jesus often spoke in parables, the disciples may have thought that his words on death and resurrection were another parable they weren't astute enough to understand. Jesus'

predictions of his death and resurrection show that these events were God's plan from the beginning and not accidents.

10:35 Mark records that John and James went to Jesus with their request; in Matthew, their mother also made the request. Apparently mother and sons were in agreement in requesting honored places in Christ's Kingdom.

10:37 The disciples, like most Jews of that day, had the wrong idea of the Messiah's Kingdom as predicted by the Old Testament prophets. They thought Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom that would free Israel from Rome's oppression. James and John wanted honored places in it. But Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world; it is not centered in palaces and thrones but in the hearts and lives of his followers. The disciples did not understand this until after Jesus' resurrection.

10:38, 39 James and John said they were willing to face any trial for Christ. Both did suffer: James died as a martyr ([Acts 12:2](#)), and John was forced to live in exile ([Revelation 1:9](#)). It is easy to say we will endure anything for Christ, and yet most of us complain about the most minor problems. We may say that we are willing to suffer for Christ, but are we willing to suffer the minor irritations that sometimes come with serving others?

10:42-45 James and John wanted the highest positions in Jesus' Kingdom. But Jesus told them that true greatness comes in serving others. Peter, one of the disciples who had heard this message, expands the thought in [1 Peter 5:1-4](#).

10:45 This verse reveals not only the motive for Jesus' ministry but also the basis for our salvation. A ransom was the price paid to release a slave. Jesus paid a ransom for us because we could not pay it ourselves. His death released all of us from our slavery to sin. The disciples thought Jesus' life and power would save them from Rome; Jesus said his *death* would save them from sin, an even greater slavery than Rome's. More about the ransom Jesus paid for us is found in [1 Peter 1:18, 19](#).

10:47 "Son of David" was a popular way of addressing Jesus as the Messiah, because it was known that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David ([Isaiah 9:7](#)). The fact that Bartimaeus called Jesus the Son of David shows that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah. His faith in Jesus as the Messiah brought about his healing.

10:47 We do not know how long Bartimaeus had been blind, but it only took a moment for him to decide to call on Jesus for help. Jesus met many spiritually blind people—religious leaders, family members, people in the crowd. Though their eyes were fine, they could not see the truth about Jesus. But blind Bartimaeus heard the report that Jesus was coming and boldly cried out. In coming to Jesus, we need Bartimaeus's boldness. We must overcome our reticence and doubts and take the step to call on him. Bartimaeus had not seen Jesus' miracles, but he responded in faith to what he had heard. We have heard Jesus described in the Gospels. May we be like those of whom Peter wrote, "You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy" ([1 Peter 1:8](#)).

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

