

THE GREATEST

COME TO ME

I heard a pastor recently say, "When Jesus shows strong emotion, he's showing us what he values." In Mark 10:14, it says that Jesus was "*indignant*." Why? Because children were trying to approach Jesus. Yes, our Savior got teed off because his disciples stopped people from bringing their children to him.

In Zero Week we quoted Psalm 16:11, "*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*" In a relationship with God through Jesus we may know eternal life, fullness of joy, and pleasure forevermore. God wants that for all his children. Rebuking the disciples he said, "*Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.*"

Throughout this study, we've seen that Jesus is the undisputed Greatest. Do you know him better? Have you surrendered to him with child-like faith (not child-like ignorance, but in helpless surrender)? He wants your best. Your best is in him. So, unashamedly, he wants you to come to him right now, today!

MARK 10:32-40

³² And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles.

³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" ³⁹ And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"*The Lion is also the GOAT. I got King Jesus.*"

In 2022, Christian rapper KB announced an "open verse challenge" to his hit, *King Jesus*. There's some greatness in the 4-part song that released from the contestant winners.

The question is, what would your verse be? Is God still writing your song? That's OK! Scan the QR-Code to close this study out with hype as we celebrate our King!



DISCUSSION

What is the thing from the study that has stood out the most or continued to challenge you?

ICEBREAKER

1. What was Jesus sharing while walking to Jerusalem? (32b-34)

2. What were James & John talking about as they walked? (35-37)

3. Summarize how Jesus responded to their question and attitude. (38-40)

4. How does this passage refute the belief that Jesus just wants his followers to be happy, good people?

5. What are the possible consequences for following Jesus? (39)

OBSERVATION

6. What can you do to elevate...

-your personal devotion to Christ?

-your missional urgency to see people know him?

APPLICATION

Leave it all on the field. If you have any questions or anything unsaid, now is your chance. Talk to your Coach today!

THE GREATEST



STUDY NOTES

HUMILITY

Mike Tyson famously said, "Fighting is a sport; if you're not humble, it's going to bring humbleness to you." Humility is the key to life, and especially the spiritual life. Life is a fight. Stay humble or you will be humbled. It was pride, the desire to be "like God" that caused the first sin when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3. Self-centered pride condemned the world and everything in it to the corruption of sin.

Sin causes people to fight with and for the wrong things. They fight the symptoms of sin without ever addressing the root cause. Sin causes our perspective to shrink to the immediate gratification we can take for ourselves in any given moment—just like a drunk unable to consider the consequences. Sin hates surrender. It hates the fact we cannot bring ultimate help to ourselves. Everything we touch is stained by imperfection.

God's rescue plan for sin was to send a Savior, his Son. Jesus was fully God and fully man. His sinless sacrifice would be eternal because of his divinity, and applicable to us because of his humanity.

As we open our passage today, two astounding things stand out. First, that Christ explicitly predicts (for the third time in *Mark*) his own death. And, second, that after hearing of the ultimate sacrifice, two disciples pull Jesus aside that *they* might be rewarded with honor.

JESUS IS GREATER

God only ever proves himself by saying he will do something, then doing it. ***Going up to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking ahead of the disciples. They were amazed, and afraid from Jesus' previous encounter. However, taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."***

This is not the first time the disciples had heard this kind of thing from Jesus. In fact, it's not the first time any of the Jews have heard that the Messiah would come and suffer (although there were great misunderstandings about this). Isaiah 53 and other prophetic passages explicitly described the suffering he would endure because of our sin.

Mark, the master story-teller illustrates the tragic misunderstanding of humanity toward Jesus and his mission. Jesus had just finished sharing about his humiliation, torture, and murder and two of the disciples couldn't help but pull Jesus aside for some good ol' fashioned sibling rivalry.

James and John asked, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

LEAVE IT ON THE FIELD

Jesus warned James and John that they had no idea what they were asking, what kind of suffering they would endure for the sake of Christ. They said they were ready, but they weren't—yet. Jesus told them they would suffer as he suffered. And they did. Both of them. In fact, all the apostles would trade their lives for the gospel with the exception of Judas the Betrayer, who died by suicide, and John, who died of old-age in exile. For all their mistakes so far, the apostles become spiritual giants.

This study started by saying that if Jesus is who he says he is and did what the Bible says he did, then humanity has a big problem called sin. However, there is also hope in Jesus. That hope isn't for good people to be better, it's for dead people to be made alive.

If you know Jesus, or met him through this study, walk with him daily. Stay intensely committed to him. Don't lose focus with the distractions that come with parties, sex, drugs and alcohol, and the other things that cloud your eternal perspective. Instead, an aspect of our continual surrender in our day is unhurried, undistracted, inefficient time with Jesus.

Not only do we seek to know and walk with Jesus, but we must maintain missional urgency. Invest in eternity by sharing the hope you've found in Christ with others. It's as easy of sharing how your life has changed.

The world has never been changed by old people. You're not too young to set the world on fire for Christ.

Leave it all on the field!