

BLINDSPOTS OF DISCIPLES (AGAIN)

Mark 10.32-45

OUTLINE

2 May 2010

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AG STUDY #31

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1. Physical blindness and spiritual blindness (Blind Bartemaeus, Mark 10.46-52; and blind disciples, see 9.33-37)
2. Jesus' prediction (cross: suffering and death, 10.32-34) and disciples' preoccupation (crown: position and glory)
3. Request of John & James
 - a) We desire (10.35)
 - b) We want (10.37)
 - c) We can (10.39)Note: Other disciples not pleased—why? (10.41)
4. Teaching of Jesus
 - a) Leadership not found in lordship but in servanthood (10.42)
 - b) Greatness not found in number of people who serve you, but in number of people you serve (10.43-44)Note: Creation (God serving man) and Redemption (Jesus giving His life for us, 10.45)
5. Me, a Servant?
 - a) A servant seeks responsibility, not rights.
 - b) A servant seeks to serve, not to be served.

STARTER: Relate an experience when you felt you were treated like a servant, e.g. being ordered about, not shown appreciation, or asked to do menial task. How did you feel?

SCRIPTURES: Mark 10.32-45 (compare 9.33-37)

1. What was uppermost in Jesus' mind as He and the disciples approached Jerusalem? What was in the minds of the disciples? Why were their thoughts so different from the thoughts of their Master?
2. What was the request of James and John? See Matthew 20.20-21 which tells us that they came with their mother who made the request. Why do you think they came with such a request? What does the reaction of the other disciples tell us about the rest of the disciples who did make such a request?
3. In what ways did Jesus come to minister (or serve)? How did He give His life as a ransom for many? What did He do that we cannot do, and what did He do that we can follow?
4. In our world today we are expected to assert our rights, even fight for them. How should we view our rights in the context of the example and the teaching of Jesus? Are there times when we give up our rights? If so, when and how?
5. Jesus compares the kind of leadership practised in the world, and the kind expected among His disciples. What is the difference? Even the world today speaks of "servant-leadership" (e.g. Robert Greenleaf Center for Servant-Leadership, a secular organisation headquartered in Indianapolis). Define biblical "servant-leadership" in a sentence.
6. It is said that "The test of being a servant is when we are treated like one." We want to follow Jesus' example to serve, but what when we are treated like a servant? How should we respond? How would Jesus respond if He were in our place?

SUMMING UP:

Consider how Jesus had "served" us, especially in giving His life to save us from our sins. In the coming days, be alert to those who serve us, and consider how we can show our gratitude to Jesus by serving others.