

# What Do You Want Me to Do for You?

Mark 10:35-52

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

WHO AM I? // WHO IS JESUS?



## CHAPTER 2

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back. Some of the boats where he was staying was so packed with visitors that they had to get on the roofs, even under the eaves. While he was preaching God's word to them, a few men stood carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they made a hole in the roof above his head and lowered the mat with the man on it. Jesus looked at them and said, "Men, your faith has healed you. Then get up and walk!" The man jumped to his feet and began to walk. All the people were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this before."

5000



- What if we read the Gospels not to see what Jesus would say but what Jesus would ask?
- Jesus' questions cause us to re-evaluate and re-align—they unnerve us!
- We don't like it because we like to be considered "experts" and we get uncomfortable with sub-texts in Scripture
- Ask the Spirit, "What do you want to question in me today?"



## **Mark 10:35–40 (NASB)**

35 James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, "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 They said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory." 38 But 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 They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. 40 But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."



- Ultimately, the brothers ask this from Jesus because they have no understanding of what Jesus is saying in vv. 32-34
- Jesus turns it around and asks, "What do you want me to do for you?"
  - In good times, we feel we know exactly what we want from Jesus
  - In hard times, we mumble and are intimidated by the question
- Our first answer is likely security, no more suffering, protect my stuff, etc.



- Jesus asks even harder questions about his cup and baptism
  - The disciples pretend to understand so he will give them what they want
  - How often do we hide in being certain when we should just sit for a while with our questions?
- What are the seats on Jesus' left and right when he enters the Kingdom?
  - 2 crosses!
- The cup and baptism = death and suffering for God's work



## **Mark 10:41–45 (NASB)**

41 Hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. 42 Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."



- The question beneath the question gets a little clearer—do we know what to ask Jesus for?
  - Talking to God about everything is always best
  - We will always be limited in our ability to talk to God
  - God doesn't want us to be willingly ignorant regarding God's will, what to pray for, etc.
- Jesus isn't in the power business; he's in the heart renovation, sacrificial servant business



## **Mark 10:46–50 (NASB)**

46 Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." 50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.



- Jesus is trying to drive home his teachings about sight, serving, sacrifice and his mission
  - Blind Bartimaeus will be the perfect object lesson
- It's the last miracle in Mark; why is it here?
  - God is attracted to FAITH
  - Jesus is the center of the story—but he stops to pay attention to us
  - Jesus shows up at random times in our ordinary little lives
  - The mission of Jesus is to bring the Kingdom to individuals
  - Jesus cares!



- Jesus is also showing us what a shepherd's heart looks like
  - You never interrupt Jesus!
- Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?"—is this discouraging?
  - Jesus asks this because he wants to draw faith from him (and the disciples, and us!)



- Lots of blindness in this chapter (rich young ruler, disciples, Bartimaeus)
  - Grace can't amaze us until we know the punishment that we all deserved and the terrible effects of sin in our lives
- We agree with the blind man—"Mercy! I need mercy!"
- He left it up to Jesus to determine what he needs most
  - So different from "give us whatever we want"



- Jesus calls 3 people to higher things in this chapter:
  - Rich young ruler—despondent
  - Disciples—disappointed
  - Blind man—Jesus sees him and gives him sight
- Bartimaeus gets himself right, and Jesus right, as he cries out for mercy!



- Did everyone get what they asked for?
  - Disciples—yes, after the root of their prayer was changed
  - Bartimaeus—yes, and so much more than he prayed for
- Bartimaeus comes to see, know and follow Jesus—that is the call for all of us!



- It can be so frustrating that Jesus isn't walking around answering our questions like a trivia grand master!
  - He's giving answers we would never dream of by asking us questions!
- What does this text tell you about you? About Jesus?
  - Who and what we are exist for Jesus' glory, not our own
  - Be careful that you don't start thinking that Jesus exists for our prosperity and pleasure
  - We exist for his glory and pleasure!