

Sermon Based Small Group: Mark 10:32-52

“TOUGHTALKS: GLORY SEEKERS

Introduction

- There is a lighter side to parent-child discipline. Share a story from either a parent or child's perspective about discipline that has a lighter side to it.

Reviewing the Teaching

- Read Mark 10:32-52.
- What stood out to you as a potentially significant takeaway in this week's teaching?
 - Why did it stand out?
 - How does it relate to you in your life situation now?
- Look up Mark 8:31, 35, and 36 and, also, 9:31 and 35. There are two themes here that we have been looking at in the last few weeks. What are they? Do the disciples understand them? How do they connect to each other?
- It is easy to pick on James and John. But first, ask yourselves why they thought that the request they made, 10:36 and 37, was reasonable? Why did they seek fame? Why do we?
- Jesus isn't looking for those who are seeking fame, but for those who are willing to suffer and to serve (38-40). In his sermon, Pastor Dave mentioned Dallas Willard who said, "Tell them about the lions." What did you think about that? Did anyone ever tell you about the lions?
- Be willing to serve when much of the world is chasing glory. The Kingdom of God is different than the world. If you want to Seek Fame, Find Service (41-45).
- Look at Jesus' questions in verses 36 and 51, "What do you want me to do for you?" This story of Bartimaeus illustrates just what Jesus has taught. Compare Bartimaeus to the rich man (vv. 17 ff) and James and John. How does Bartimaeus display a servant heart?
- Bartimaeus asks for sight. What does he get? (hint "made well" in v. 52 is literally "saved") In a life of faith, God does not always give us what we ask for. Often He gives us much more.

Digging Deeper

- Peter, James and John were part of Jesus' inner circle. In hindsight, we can see the obvious things that they missed. Do we miss these things too?
- They did grow over time. Remember that Peter was Mark's source for much of the detail in this Gospel. Read again what he wrote in 1 Peter 4:12, 13. Have you ever heard someone say that they cannot believe in a God that would allow all the suffering they see in the world? There are many answers to this question. Think about what Peter says here. Why is there suffering? Is there a bigger picture?
- Jesus took two images from the ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and repurposed them to describe His passion (38-40), the cup and baptism. How do these images connect to His passion? When Jesus describes suffering, does He describe something only we do, or something He did also? Was His suffering meaningless or purposeful? What about ours?

Applying it to Life

- Read Philippians 2:5-11. There are two words used in this passage that are interesting. They are vane (or empty or nothing) and glory. Paul presents two paths, empty glory (v.3 empty conceit is literally "empty glory") or "make yourself nothing" and be glorified by God.
- Some things to consider:

- Being a servant pleases God.
- God chose to be a servant.
- God glorified Jesus.
- God will care for the servant.
- What about these statements do you agree with? Service is difficult. Does it have any benefits?
- Service starts in the heart, but it needs your hands, head and feet? How are your hands, head and feet doing in a regular commitment to serve?
- How do you serve at work?

Prayer

- Pray for a servant heart. Choose to honor people around you who are servant hearted.
- Continue to pray for specific needs in your group.
- Is there something else from the message that you would like to pray about?