

October 8th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 36)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

Have you ever been in a situation where you have asked for or said something that you realized later was completely “out of line” or even “dumb” to ask? At what point did you realize the mistake you made? What were the circumstances surrounding the conversation?

**Digging In**

**Question 1: Read Mark 10:32-35.** In these verses, Jesus takes time with his disciples to explain to them once again what is going to happen to Him. Jesus clearly explains to them His ultimate mission to why He came to earth – to die and resurrect for humanity's sin. And the disciples still don't understand. Then, James and John tell Jesus – “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” What does this reveal about not just James and John, but the selfishness of the human heart?

**Question 2: Read Mark 10:36-40.** These men's request is to sit at the right and left of Jesus in glory. Where do you find yourself in your own life requesting things from Jesus that are selfish? The disciple's definition of greatness is different than Jesus' definition of greatness. With how Jesus responds to them, how does this change the way you make requests to God? How does it help you redefine what true “greatness” really is?

**Question 3: Read Mark 10:41-43.** As we become more like Jesus, our lives become less about ourselves and more about other people. How is God currently asking you to serve other people? Maybe it's your family, church, co-workers, neighbor, classmates. **Read John 3:30.** How are you “becoming less” and how is Jesus “becoming greater” in your life?

**Question 4: Read Mark 10:44-45.** Through becoming a servant, Jesus says his life will be a “ransom” for many. **Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 Peter 1:17-19, Revelation 5:9-10.** How do these verses describe what Jesus was accomplishing with the task of ransoming us? How does this reality make a difference in your life today? How should this truth affect your life daily?

**Praise / Prayer Requests**

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?