

Talk Two

Who is the greatest?

Week 2, Mark 10:35-45 Discussion Questions

Choose a selection from the questions below.

Read Mark 10:35-45 (The Disciples - James and John - and Jesus)

1. Read the verses just prior to our passage - vv 32-34. Why does Jesus need to keep explaining to the disciples what is about to unfold in Jerusalem (i.e., his death and resurrection). Why do you think the disciples struggle to understand it? What aspect do they appear not to have ever grasped?
2. What do you make of the request of James and John? What were they thinking? What was their motivation?
3. What is the disciple's understanding of the events that are about to unfold in Jerusalem (v.37)?
4. What does Jesus mean by "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with" (v.38)?
5. Why were the other 10 apostles so furious with James and John?
6. What factors or characteristics usually lead us to conclude someone is 'great' in our society?
7. Put into your own words, how Jesus says 'greatness' ought to be understood.
8. What is surprising about v45 - that Jesus says he came to serve?
9. How would you explain the concept of Jesus giving his life as a 'ransom' to someone who hasn't yet understood the significance of Jesus' death?
10. Once again, Jesus reminds the disciples (and us!) that his ultimate purpose was to give his life. What is the response each one of us then must make and why is it hard to do that?

Reflection: Have you asked Jesus to serve you - through his death and resurrection? Do you see your life now as an opportunity to serve others, after the pattern of (and in response to) the way Jesus has served us?