

08

MARK 10:32-45

THE SERVANT MESSIAH



THIS WEEK'S focus

One difference between a good leader and a bad leader is motive. Good leaders do what they do, say what they say, and make the decisions they make with the greater good in mind. They view leadership as an opportunity to help others. Bad leaders view leadership as an opportunity to serve their own purposes and to tell others what to do. No one likes to work with a bad leader, but some people still become bad leaders themselves. Impressive titles don't make us better; they reveal who we were all along. Today, we'll see what kind of leader Jesus was and what kind of leaders His disciples might have been without His guidance. We'll learn to check ourselves against the standard of leadership Jesus set for us.



CENTRAL truth

Jesus was the ultimate servant.



EXPLORE scripture

MARK 10:32-45

MARK 10:32-34

32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were astonished, but those who followed him were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him. **33** “See, we are going up to Jerusalem.

The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, **34** and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days.”

MARK 10:35-40

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you.” **36** “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked them. **37** They answered him, “Allow us to sit at your right and at your left in your glory.” **38** Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you able to drink the cup I

drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” **39** “We are able,” they told him. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. **40** But to sit at my right or left is not mine to give; instead, it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

MARK 10:41-45

41 When the ten disciples heard this, they began to be indignant with James and John. **42** Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. **43** But it is not so among you.

On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, **44** and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MARK 10:45

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MARK 10:32-34

DWELL

We all say we want to hear from God, but what we really mean is we want to hear something happy and encouraging from Him. When He tells us something we don't want to hear, we often pretend we didn't hear Him or assume we heard Him wrong. Following Jesus is a blessing, but it's also hard. Like Jesus, we have to be willing to go through the hard to get to the good stuff.



How did God plan to accomplish the revolution that Jesus's disciples craved?



Jesus's disciples were all about revolution until Jesus told them what it would require. What does this teach you about human nature?

MEMORIZE

Write Mark 10:45 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

PRAY

Thank God for caring enough about you to let you in on His plan when He thinks you can handle it. Ask Him for the courage to acknowledge His words when they scare you a little bit and to do what He says.

day 2

MARK 10:35-36

DWELL

This conversation was so backwards! James and John asked for Jesus's *yes* before telling Him what they wanted, but we are the ones who should offer our *yes* before Jesus tells us what *He* wants. Jesus probably knew what they wanted, but He asked anyway. People can't be trusted with an unconditional *yes*, but God can. The sooner we offer it, the sooner we get to see Him do cool stuff in and through us!

↪ What can you do to make sure your prayers are humble and not self-seeking?

↑ Jesus could have responded with “who do you think you are?” but He didn't. What does this tell you about the way God deals with us?

MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 10:45 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

PRAY

Thank God for the privilege of coming to Him with requests. Ask God to teach you how to approach Him with both confidence and humility. Ask Him for the courage to give Him your unconditional *yes*.

day 3

MARK 10:37-40

DWELL

The blessings we want from God often come at a price. We want the privilege, but we don't want to pay for it. However, it's often through payment of the price that God is most glorified. If we really want the world to know who God is and what He has done, we will be willing to pay the price whether or not we benefit. Honestly, just getting to participate in God's plan is blessing enough, but it takes a while to learn that.

← Jesus recognized James and John's selfish request for what it was, but He didn't accuse them—He guided their thinking. What can you learn from His example?

→ How can you avoid the temptation of making God's decisions for Him?

MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 10:45 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

PRAY

Thank God for listening to every request you make, even when you have no right to make it. Thank Him for always doing what's right and best for everyone in the long run. Tell Him you trust His wisdom.

day 4

MARK 10:41-45

DWELL

Being a servant when we feel like it is one thing, but Jesus told His disciples they would have to be slaves. They couldn't just do the good deeds they felt like doing and clock out. They had to meet all kinds of needs whenever those needs came up. Following Jesus isn't comfortable or convenient. The sooner we accept that, the sooner following Him becomes the joy it ought to be.



Jesus said human officials were “regarded as rulers” (v. 42). What did He know that we often forget?



What flaw did Jesus reveal in the nature of human desire (vv. 43-44)?

MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 10:45 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

PRAY

Thank God for sending Jesus to pay the price for your sin. Thank Him for Jesus's example of leadership. Ask Him to give you the desire to serve as Jesus served.

day 5

MATTHEW 20:20-21

DWELL

James, John, and their mother all agreed they deserved to sit on either side of Jesus. There's a real danger in letting other people hype you up. In the end, it's not their opinion that matters. It's God's. When we start to believe our own press, we just complicate and delay the process of getting into the head space that helps us serve effectively.



Salome didn't just ask a favor; she asked for a guarantee. What does this reveal about her willingness to submit to God's wisdom?



We don't always know what's best for our family, but God does. How should this impact the way we pray for them?

MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 10:45 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

PRAY

Thank God for being patient with our selfish requests and doing what's best in spite of us. Ask Him to give you a healthy respect for His wisdom and to warn you when you start thinking too much of yourself.