

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

March 11, 2012

Series: Jesus 101

“The Upside Down Kingdom” Mark 10:13-45

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Sermon Summary: The disciples are still trying to figure this all out. Who is Jesus? Peter had it right when He said “You are the Christ” Mk. 8:29, but he didn’t fully grasp the implications of what he had said. Why did Jesus come? This passage contains Jesus’ third prediction of His suffering and death but they are still confused. As they continue on to Jerusalem and the Cross, some of his disciples were astonished and others were afraid. This passage reveals their lack of understanding of the Kingdom – who Jesus has come for, who can be saved and what it means to be a part of this Kingdom. Whatever their understanding of the Kingdom before, Jesus is turning everything upside down.

Group Discussion Questions:

- I. After visiting for a few minutes begin this LIFE Group by focusing on God in worship and prayer. Read Ps. 75:1 “*We thank you, O God! We give thanks because you are near. People everywhere tell of your wonderful deeds.*” Invite group members to participate in prayer with short prayers of thanksgiving.
- II. Read Mark 10:13-45 or 10:32-45 if you’d like a shorter passage to focus on.
- III. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What stands out for you in this passage?
- IV. How does the question (v.35) and the request (v.37) of James and John show that they still don’t understand the meaning of the cross and the nature of the kingdom?
- V. What do you think Jesus is talking about when he speaks of the “cup” and “baptism” in 10:38-40 (cf. Isa. 51:17-23)? The disciples quickly reply “we can” - do you think they knew what they were saying?
- VI. How does Jesus turn “upside down” what it means to be a leader in God’s Kingdom?
- VII. Read 10:45. This is the key verse of the Gospel of Mark. What do we learn here about Jesus? About why He came? What do you think is the significance of the word “ransom”? Jesus may very well have had Isa. 53:2-12 in mind when he said these words. How does this shed light on 10:45?

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- VIII. Why do you think the disciples “rebuked” the people bringing children (10:13) and Bartimaeus (10:48)? How can we be guilty of the same attitudes?
- IX. What is the Good News in this passage for: the oppressed? overlooked? rejected? sick? lost? Who do you know that needs to hear that News?
- X. What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? How can we pray for each other? **** Get in groups of 2-3 and share the answer to these questions. It is very important that we get beyond just talking about the Bible ****

Quotes:

“For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man... puts himself where God deserves to be; God... puts himself where man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone.” (John Stott, The Cross, p. 160). “

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“That is what Mark 10:45 is all about. Jesus does not merely come as another teacher or philosopher or politician or mystic. He comes to do two things. One: to give his life as a ransom for many. And he comes, secondly, to serve his disciples—to serve all those who will stop trying to earn his approval by serving him, and will humble themselves like little children and let him serve them. This is the help we need and the power we need. He is our Redeemer from guilt and death and hell. He is our helper day in and day out as he serves us by the power of his Spirit.” (Tim Keller)

Notes to Leaders: Next week (**March 18**) there will be a guest speaker as Vera and I will be away. For the LIFE Group study that week I won't be preparing a study. I would suggest that you take notes during the sermon and use that as a place to start in your discussions. The week after that (**March 25**) will be a Mission Focus Sunday with Sheldon, Naida, Mark and Megan sharing about their trip to Haiti. For that week's study please reflect on what was shared and on John 17:6-26 and what it means to be “sent”. As a group think about how you can individually and collectively be “on mission” for God. **April 1** will be our last Sunday in Mark and then starting **April 8** (Easter) we will begin a series called “5 Words That Can Change Your Life” from Romans 8.

May God richly bless your time together as a group!