**The Gospel of Mark: A Disciple’s Mirror**

***Reflections on Following Jesus--*** From A Handbook on Cross-Bearing

**Mark 10:32-52**

***Seeing and Following Jesus***

Are we Regal Rulers or Blind Beggars?

**What’s (happening in) the story?** Jesus gives sight and insight.

For the third time Jesus prophesies His death in Jerusalem, and for the third time, the disciples seem totally out of touch with the message. When two of them seek top places in His “glory,” He reminds them that the suffering precedes glory, for Him and them, and then, through a miracle, pictures the essence of discipleship.

**What’s the challenge in the story?** Am I truly seeing Jesus as He is?

Mark places a miracle of seeing (8:23-25) before Jesus first announces His death, and here, after the third prediction (10:46-52). This is Mark’s way of warning us of our own blindness, and showing us the way to (in)sight: faith in Jesus, who stops to give us “eyes to see” and “ears to hear,” that is, faith to follow Him.

**What are the key elements in the story?**

***Jesus teaches us the meaning and implications of discipleship. . .***

* ***By explaining who He is and why He came. . . 10:32-34***

Jesus is the portrait of the humble, self-sacrificing servant, Messiah.

“Jesus leading the way. . . those who followed were afraid.”

* ***By identifying us with Him in His mission. . . 10:35-45***

James and John are portraits of well-meaning, but misguided disciples.

“You will drink the cup I drink, and be baptized with my baptism.”

“Came not to be served, but to. . . give His life as a ransom for many.”

* ***By compassionately equipping us, by faith, to follow Him. 10:46-52***

Bartimaeus is a portrait of the enlightened disciple because. . .

* He is blind, knows it and admits it, picturing our cluelessness.
* He seeks his sight through Messiah, picturing our helplessness.
* He hears and obeys Jesus to the extent he can, picturing our faith.
* He follows Jesus on the way to the Cross, picturing our obedience.

**What’s the big idea (main point) of the story?**

Jesus boldly leads the way to the Cross, modeling sacrifice for others and showing His love and power to save / restore all who trust Him.

***So, let’s take a look at ourselves in Mark’s mirror. . .***

1. We may think James and John too ambitious, but at least they wanted in on God’s glory. What is your heart’s desire? Mark 12:28-34

2. Am I willing to suffer with Jesus that I might reign with Him? Romans 8:12-17.

(Note that Paul places “suffering” and “putting sin to death” in the same category. All suffering is not martyrdom.)

3. Am I daily laying down my life for others? John 13:31-35; 1 John 3:16