

Mark

Chapter 10

In verses 1-12 we have a test question. It sounds like a legitimate question, but I think as it says it was “a test.” Now that we are rapidly moving into the political season, I think we will hear more and more test questions asked to try to get someone to say something that will lose votes. What do you think about what Jesus said here? What was Paul’s opinion?

In verses 13-16 we have the story of Jesus blessing the little children. How have you experienced Jesus, and the church, blessing children?

In verses 17-27 we hear a familiar story about a wannabe disciple. What does it say to us? What do you get out of Jesus’ answer to the disciples?

In verses 28-31 reflecting on what Peter says here, let me ask you, what have you given up in order to follow Jesus? The rich man was asked to go sell everything and give it all away. And Peter responds that he and the other disciples have done that. How about us?

In verses 32-34 for the third time in as many chapters Jesus predicts his death and resurrection. We can only hear it long after the fact, but how hard would it have been for those first disciples to hear of it before it happened. And how hard would it be for the gospel readers to understand it if they are just hearing of it for the first time?

In verses 35-45 there seems to be a vast contrast to the previous notion of giving up everything to a notion of getting everything – or at least the best seats of power at the right and left hand of Jesus. What does this say about how we are to act as followers of Jesus?

In verses 46-52 we have another healing story. It is also a story of an active faith that could not be silenced. When might we pray or shout for Jesus to have mercy on us? I suspect that if the crowd had been able to shush Bartimaeus, Jesus would not have stopped and healed him. I wonder what Jesus has not done today because we have neither prayed nor believed?