

Reflection Questions
Mark 10:32-52

1. There's a wide variety of perspectives on Jesus in 10:32. Some are "amazed;" others are "afraid;" but still, people are following Him. Jesus has never been totally predictable, but His unpredictability seems to be increasing. And here in vv.33-34, He's saying some even more unpredictable things. In what ways has God been unpredictable in your life? Why might our inability to predict God's movements actually be a source of comfort?
2. James and John make a bold request (v.37). But before they make their request, they want an assurance that Jesus will respond favorably: "We want you to do for us whatever we ask" (v.35). Their strategy is to leverage their relationship with Jesus to ensure that they get what they want. Have you ever demanded that God answer a specific prayer of yours? If so, what kind of response did you receive back from God?
3. James and John are looking expectantly toward Jerusalem, toward which they've been traveling for some time. Jesus has talked about entering Jerusalem several times, and these disciples think they know what this entrance will amount to. They expect Jesus to take the throne of King David and to reign in glory. But their picture of glory is not Jesus' picture of glory. Jesus' glory is found in the most unlikely place: a suffering death. In what ways is Jesus' death glorious? How is it something in which Paul boasts later in the New Testament (Gal 6:14)?
4. Jesus uses a wonderful phrase related to His disciples. He describes the way Gentiles use their power, and then directs His disciples to use their power differently: "It shall not be so among you" (v.43). Jesus is challenging His disciples to an alternative way of living. The same challenge is given to the church even today – to live life differently. In what areas of your life have you been able to live your life differently for God? What areas of your life are more difficult to change?
5. Bartimaeus cries out to Jesus with a simple request, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v.47). When was the last time you made this same request to God?
6. The disciples bring a message to Bartimaeus: "Take heart. Get up; He is calling you" (v.49). Take some time this week to put yourself in the position of blind Bartimaeus. Meditate on the phrase above. Repeat it slowly in your mind. What stands out to you? How might God use this phrase to direct your life?