

The Road to Calvary Lesson 3

Now I See

Mark 10: 32-52

A Bible Study Lesson of the Mount Zion Church
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We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!



Introduction: The purpose of the following lesson is for students to have a greater understanding of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Within the lesson are a variety of examples of how Jesus' inner circle still did not understand what ministry was about. Their lacking clarity once again positioned them to clamor for positions of prestige. Similar to the previous lesson, their PRIDE blinded them to Jesus sharing with them that His purpose was to "be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. [to] be condemned to death and handed over to the Gentiles..." (Mark 10: 33). The writer, Mark, follows Jesus' third pronouncement with the miracle of Bartimaeus which highlights that Jesus can cure the spiritual blindness and physical blindness of those who seek to see.



Key Scripture:

Mark 10: 32-52

Supporting Passages:

Luke 9: 57-62 Romans 10: 13-14

John 8: 24 Philippians 2: 5-8

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

I. Third Time Is the Charm? Maybe!

As mentioned in previous lessons, Mark records Jesus' teaching to His disciples about His death. The repetition of the lesson should not be taken lightly as Mark purposes for readers to understand A. that Jesus did not have His disciples in a place of not knowing B. that Jesus was clear on what He came to do C. that Jesus' ministry was not about personal satisfaction and comfort D. that we as His followers have a pattern to follow. Each understanding that Jesus attempted to impart to the twelve seemed to slowly be taking root in their understanding, but it was a lengthy process.

In Table 1, students can see the sequence of Mark’s recording of Jesus’ announcements about His death.

Table 1: Jesus predicts His death in Mark 8-10

Announcement of Jesus’ Death	Failure on the Part of the Disciples	Jesus Teaches on Discipleship
Jesus will suffer, be rejected, killed, and will rise after three days (8:31)	Peter rebukes Jesus (8:32-33)	Jesus commands them to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him (8:33-9:1)
Jesus will be delivered, killed, and will rise after three days (9:30-31)	The disciples do not understand the saying and are afraid to ask him about it (9:32)	Jesus teaches that the first must be last and that those who receive children in his name receive him (9:33-50)
Jesus will be delivered, condemned, mocked, flogged, killed, and will rise after three days (10:33-34)	James and John ask that they may sit next to Jesus in his glory (10:35-37)	Jesus teaches that, to be great, they must become servants; to be first, they must become slaves; and that he came to serve by giving his life as a ransom for many (10:38-45)

Take a moment and compare the announcements to the teaching on discipleship. What do you notice about Jesus’ teaching?

I notice:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Did you notice that Jesus repeatedly mentions the ideas of commitment, service, and sacrifice? This must not be overlooked because Jesus intently wants us to understand that His purpose was singular.

In the first column of Table 1, jot down the action words that Jesus predicted He would face:

Jesus said He would face...
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

How does knowing that Jesus chose the lifestyle of suffering change your view of Jesus' ministry? Is this what you were taught about Jesus when you became a Christian? Why do you think it is vital that we tell new Christians about this reality for Jesus' followers?

For a supporting thought, read Luke 9: 57-62. In this passage, readers will find that Jesus meets people who claim allegiance to Him, but when Jesus tells them what it will take to be His disciples, they decide that the cost is too high. Have you considered the cost of following Jesus? Why do you find the expense worth it?

II. I Am Blind but Need to See

After James and John ask Jesus for positions of prestige in the kingdom, a man recognizes the presence of Jesus and asks Jesus to heal his blindness. Jesus again shows the disciples and the crowd the purpose of His ministry. He is here to open the eyes of the physically blind and to open the eyes of the spiritually blind.

Mark notes a few characteristics of Bartimaeus' life. Mark records that Bartimaeus sat by the road begging. The implication of his physical condition is reflected in all who do not know Jesus. In Table 2 readers can see how physical blindness and spiritual blindness create similar difficulties.

Table 2: Bartimaeus’ condition versus Unsavved spiritual condition

Bartimaeus’ Condition	Spiritual Condition of Unsavved
1. He is by the road not progressing	1. Outside of salvation not living an abundant life
2. He is in a position of need— Begging for help	2. Needing to be saved or face the penalty for sin (John 8: 24, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)
3. He cannot see	3. Blinded to the truths of Christ unless they hear the Word of God (Romans 10: 13-14)

Activity: Discuss with a friend or write down the place in this situation where ministry begins and why you feel it begins at that point. The purpose of this activity is for you to align your mind with the way Jesus approaches the work we are called to do (Philippians 2: 5-8).

I think that ministry (the work of Christ) begins at 1, 2, or 3 (chart above) because...

WAIT! Did you notice how the people who were “following” Jesus responded to Bartimaeus? Remember, Mark positions this miracle immediately after Jesus teaches the disciples about what they were supposed to be doing. Jesus continually pushes His followers to seek to do good works for people and to use those opportunities as a doorway to discuss Jesus. To get to the conversation about Jesus you can ask the same questions.

1. Would you like to talk? Mark 10: 49
2. What do you need in your life? Mark 10: 51

Each of these opens the conversation for us to engage people who are “sitting on the side of the road.” Remember, our purpose is to be sensitive to the hurts that people face. The areas of need are opportunities that Christ has created for us to minister to Him through others.



The Big DUH moment!

As you read the healing of Bartimaeus the most obvious conclusion occurs! He follows Jesus. The result is too simple to believe yet it points to what Jesus taught during his earthly ministry. The lesson is: When people truly encounter Jesus, they will be healed and will become disciples. Bartimaeus’ faith that Jesus was the answer to his need changes his future. The crowd wanted Bartimaeus to be quiet and leave Jesus alone. The disciples probably wanted Bartimaeus to get out of the way so they could be seen as part of Jesus’ entourage. Jesus wanted Bartimaeus to come close.

Mark closes out the record of Bartimaeus with an interesting wording for what happens. The first description of Bartimaeus was that he sat by the road. The concluding description was that he followed Jesus on the road. After meeting Jesus, he found healing and purpose. Imagine what could happen if we as believers in Christ approached ministry in a way that impacted people in this same manner!



1. What have you learned from this lesson?
2. As a result of this lesson, what should you now do?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me the mind for your work. I desire to be a disciple that follows as you lead. In Jesus’ name Amen.