

The Ambitious Heart

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Mark 10:32-52.

II. Jesus knew that He was going to be delivered into the hands of the Romans and that He would be delivered to death to be mocked, spit upon and scourged. Jesus learned this from the Old Testament Prophets.

III. Two of the disciples ask that they might sit with Jesus on His right and left.

- A. They were asking for something that Jesus had given them the right to ask for.
- B. They had been promised that they would sit with Jesus in judgment on thrones.
- C. They asked for pre-eminence, proximity, and power.
- D. The problem was that they were asking without understanding of the cost it would demand.
 - 1. A "cup" is one's realm of experience--what life hands to a person, whether negative or positive.
 - 2. Jesus is referring to the cross here.
 - 3. Baptism means to dip and refers to that which Jesus would be totally immersed in--the cross.
 - 4. The disciples would have to bear the reproach of Jesus if they were to follow Him.
 - 5. God always starts with people not events--His goal is to shape men.

IV. The other disciples are upset because the two were able to ask Jesus for favors before they did.

- A. We do not need to be in competition because of the gifts and status we have been given in the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12)
- B. The mark of authority is not by how many people are under them in the church.
 - 1. There is danger in lording it over others in the church.
 - 2. Only the Lord commands in the church.
- C. The key to true authority is service.
 - 1. Service always meets another's needs.
 - 2. It makes a person one serves want to respond in kind.
- D. Jesus died to give ransom for many.

V. The account of blind Bartimaeus.

A. It means the son of Timaeus, and the name is underscored here since it is translated. Timaeus means honor.

B. The trouble with the disciples was that they were blind--they wanted something but they could not see it. Bartimaeus was blind.

C. Bartimaeus cried out for help to see. When we come asking for good things from the Lord, we should also seek to get understanding from them as well. We all must ask the Lord to search our hearts and reveal any wicked way in us.

Application questions:

1. What expectations should the Christian have with regard to suffering?

2. Who is a model for you of servant leadership in your church? How do they demonstrate this?

3. What are some things you are asking the Lord for that you could use understanding in as well? Take some time in prayer before the Lord seeking His wisdom.
