


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

The Request of James and John

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Q1. As we read verses 35-45, what do you think is Jesus’ central teaching to His disciples?


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Q2. Since we measure greatness by the number of people who serve under us (e.g., a manager, director, company CEO), what did Jesus mean, “whoever wants to become great among you, must be your servant”?

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Q3. What did Jesus mean by “to give his life as a ransom for many”?

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 The writers of the Gospels experienced the same “Jesus” incidents in different ways. Doctor Luke, for example, wrote as a biographer. Whereas Matthew and John wrote from their eyewitness perspectives. When the writers wrote their Gospels, certain details of those incidents were of greater importance to their Gospel message than others. Does that mean that one was wrong or inconsistent? No. It means that the writers, while guided by the Holy Spirit in their writings, wrote of the incidents from their individual perspectives and described the details necessary to convey those incidents and the overall message or emphasis they – the writer – wanted to convey to the reader.

 If we all witness the same burglary, our individual descriptions of the burglar to the police are colored by our different perspectives and experiences. I might be able to describe the burglar’s clothing down to the type of fabric and colors in his jacket, another might be able to identify the pro hockey team logo on his ‘ball cap, and another might be able to identify his sneakers, including manufacturer, model, and approximate size. Does that mean that we are wrong? No, it merely illustrates the different things that we noticed based upon our life experiences. From our descriptions, the police are able to build a good detailed composite of the burglar.

 While each Gospel individually provides great insight into Christ Jesus, all of the Gospels together give us a much clearer picture (composite) of our Lord and Savior.

Day 2

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Matthew 20:20-26

²⁰ [A Mother's Request] Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

Q4. Who were Zebedee’s sons? (Mark 1:19)

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Q5. Did Zebedee’s sons witness Jesus’ transfiguration? (Mark 9:2)

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Q6. What was one of the last things Jesus told the three witnesses? (Mark 9:9)

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Q7. Do you think that they believed that Jesus was the Messiah, God’s Son? (Mark 9:7)

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²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

Q8. Would these be enviable positions sitting on the right and left of Jesus?

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Q9. Do you think that their mom encouraged them to ask Jesus this question? Why did mom?

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²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

Q10. Did James and John (and their mom) have any concept of what Jesus meant by “the cup I am going to drink”?

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Q11. To what was Jesus referring?

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Day 3


Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.


²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

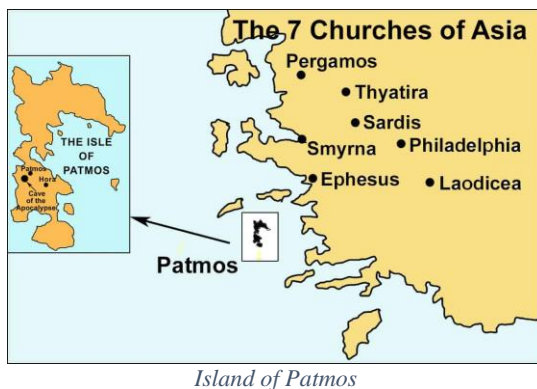
Q12. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup". Do we know how the brothers died?

Acts 12:1-2 [James, son of Zebedee, the brother of John] It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

 James: “beheaded. . . Thus did the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely receive that cup, which he had told our Savior he was ready to drink.” (Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, page 2; <http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/Foxes%20Book%20of%20Martyrs.pdf>)

 [John, son of Zebedee, the brother of James] Most commentators agree that John, son of Zebedee was the “disciple whom Jesus loved” [John 13:23] and the author of the Gospel of John. The Romans banished prisoners to the volcanic island of Patmos, which is shaped like a rough silhouette of a seahorse jutting-up out of the Aegean Sea and is approximately 7½ miles long by 6 miles wide. Later in John’s life the Romans sentenced John to Patmos [Revelation 1:9] for preaching in Ephesus about salvation through Christ Jesus. While on Patmos John wrote the Book of Revelation.

 According to a book on New Testament Martyrs, we read “From Ephesus [John] was ordered to be sent to Rome, where it is affirmed he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle, without injury. [Roman Emperor] Domitian afterwards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Nerva, the successor of Domitian, recalled him. He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death.” (Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, page 4; <http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/Foxes%20Book%20of%20Martyrs.pdf>)



²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

Q13. Why were the other ten disciples “indignant” with the two brothers?

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

Q14. What did Jesus mean by rulers lording it over them? Isn’t that a good thing, since it promotes societal order/peace?

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²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Q15. If a person has money and power and celebrity, aren't they "great" in our eyes? Would we act differently if a television/movie actor was sitting in this room with us?

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Q16. How does Jesus want us to act?

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Q17. What did Jesus mean when He said, "and to give his life as a ransom for many"?

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Day 4

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Q18. Why do you think people were shushing poor, blind Bartimaeus?

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Q19. How do people generally react when they see a beggar?

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Q20. Is Jesus God? Is Jesus full of wisdom? Is Jesus powerful? Why on earth would Jesus care about a blind beggar?

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Q21. Why did Bartimaeus call Jesus the "Son of David"?

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Day 5

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

Q22. Do you think that Bartimaeus was eager to meet Jesus? What gives it away?

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Q23. Why did Bartimaeus wait to be invited?

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⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

Q24. Did Bartimaeus hesitate? Did he know what he wanted?

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Q25. What do you think Bartimaeus knew of Jesus before this “chance” meeting? (~~C~~o-incidence? God-incidence!)

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Day 6

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Q26. In Mark 8:22-26 Jesus actually touched the eyes of the blind man to heal him. Did Jesus have to touch Bartimaeus or wash his eyes with mud? What is the difference between Bartimaeus and the others?

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Q27. How do you think Bartimaeus acted as he “followed Jesus along the road”?

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Q28. Was Jesus embarrassed by the man? What emotion(s) do you think Jesus felt?

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