

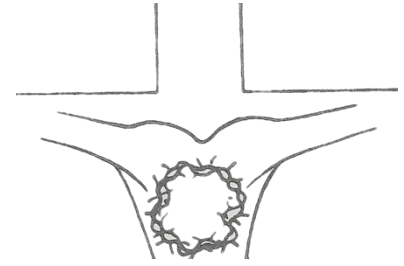
# Life Group Notes for the week beginning 03 April 2022

## Mark 10:32-52

### “Not what you expect”

#### Introduction

What pictures come to mind when you think of Jesus' crucifixion, and how does that affect you?



#### Mark 10:32-45

- 1) What do you think James and John were expecting to happen when Jesus reached Jerusalem?
- 2) What did James and John envisage by “in your glory” (verse 37)?
- 3) Jesus had just spelt out to them what was really going to happen when they reached Jerusalem (verses 32-34). How could James and John, and the other disciples, be so blind?
- 4) Mark will go on to show us that “when Jesus ‘sits in His glory’, with one at His right and one at His left, it will be on the cross” (Tom Wright).  
Jesus speaks several times in the gospel of John of being “glorified” (e.g. John 12:23) or “lifted up” (John 12:32), by which He means “crucified”.  
In what sense can His death on the cross be seen as His glory?
- 5) The disciples clearly did not want to think about a crucified Messiah. Are there people today who would rather have Christ without the Cross? What sort of a faith would that result in?

#### Mark 10:46-52

- 1) What do you think is significant about the fact that Mark places the healing of a blind man after Jesus tries to explain to His disciples about the cross? *Mark also places the healing of a blind man (Mark 8:22-26) before He tries to explain to His disciples about the cross!*
- 2) How does spiritual blindness manifest itself today?
- 3) Do you have any ‘blind spots’ when it comes to Jesus?

#### Reflection

*The cross isn't just about God forgiving our sins because of Jesus' death (though of course this is central to it). Because it is God's way of putting the world and ourselves right, it challenges and subverts all the human systems that claim to put the world right but in fact only succeed in bringing a different set of humans out on top. The reason James and John misunderstand Jesus is exactly the same as the reason why many subsequent thinkers, down to our own day, are desperate to find a way of having Jesus without having the cross as well: the cross calls into question all human pride and glory.”*  
(Tom Wright. *Mark for Everyone.*)