

## “What do you want me to do for you?”

**A. Intro:** *What do you want Jesus to do for you?*

**B. Sermon in a Question:** *What do you want Jesus to do **IN** you?*

**C. Context of Jesus' Questions in Mark 10:36 & 10:51**

Mark 10:23-52 is the larger context of this week's question. Just prior to this section, Jesus has shown his love toward a rich, young ruler who is seeking eternal life. As the man departs after Jesus has instructed him to go and divest himself of earthly security, the disciples hear Jesus describe how difficult it is for a self-willed, wealthy person to enter the Kingdom, as well as how blessed are those who surrender to him.

As they near Jerusalem, Jesus describes for the third time in this gospel the torture, death, and resurrection awaiting him ahead. James and John forego what should have been sober reflection and instead step forward in brash opportunism. They want the key places of honor and influence next to the throne of Jesus, not understanding at all what that means.

Jesus repeats his question twice in this passage, once for James and John, and then again for Bartimaeus, the blind beggar who pleads loudly for the Messiah's mercy above the rebukes of the interfering crowds.

**D. Mark 10:35-52 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup> And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, **“What do you want me to do for you?”** <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” <sup>38</sup> Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” <sup>39</sup> And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” <sup>41</sup> And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. <sup>42</sup> And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

<sup>46</sup> And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup> And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup> And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” <sup>50</sup> And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> And Jesus said to him, **“What do you want me to do for you?”** And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” <sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.



Jesus healing blind Bartimaeus,  
by Johann Heinrich Stöver, 1861

## E. LIFE APPLICATION:

### 1. The Three Requests

- a. **The Rich, Young Ruler:** *Eternal Life, on my terms*
- b. **The Disciples:** *Earthly Prestige & Power*
- c. **Bartimaeus:** *Sight, added to God's insight*

### 2. Jesus is asking you what you want Him to do for you.

*What patterns do you notice in how you respond?*

### 3. Ask Jesus what He wants to do IN you.

*What patterns do you notice about how you interact with Jesus?*

### 4. Pray for God's grace to fill you for His glory.

## F. Questions for Small Groups or Further Study

1. When have you been so highly focused on a task that you tuned out everything else?
2. In one sentence, describe your purpose for existence.
3. What was good and bad about James and John's request in this passage? What was different about Bartimaeus' request?
4. In what areas of your life do you need the mercy and wisdom of God? Why?
5. How is Jesus calling you to follow Him **on the way**?