

Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time

³²And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

The Request of James and John

³⁵And 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." ³⁶And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸Jesus 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?" ³⁹And 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, ⁴⁰but 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." ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And 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. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,^[a] ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave^[b] of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Q: How have the disciples responded to Jesus speaking of his death so far in Mark's gospel? Why do you think this is?

Q: What do James and John ask for? What does this reveal about their attitude?

Q: How does Jesus react? What does Jesus say they will have to experience first in this life?

Q: How are these verses a challenge to our attitude of Christian service?

Q: What contrast does Jesus make here? How are his followers to live?

Q: What will it look like for us to serve each other sacrificially?

Q: How can we encourage one another to live this way?

