

THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

~Week Thirteen~

“Come and Die!”

Mark 10:28-34



Life Groups

We resume our study of the book of Mark entitled “The Surprising Jesus.” Whether you work through these studies on your own, with a friend, or with a UPC Life Group, they will help you develop a HEAD that enjoys God’s truth, a HEART of love for God and neighbor, and HANDS eager to serve the King.

A reminder... This weekly Bible study is connected to the Sunday sermons at UPC. It includes a “Look Back” section to help you reflect on last Sunday’s sermon, and a “Look Up” section to take you through the NEXT passage in the book of Mark. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at www.upc-orlando.com.

LOOK BACK – Mark 10:17-27

This passage of Mark’s gospel records an important conversation between Jesus and a rich young man. Jesus’ words to this misguided man are a vital reminder to us about the way to receive eternal life.

- a) How do the verses immediately before this passage (Mark 10:13-16) provide an interesting contrast to Jesus’ encounter with the rich young man?

- b) What is wrong with the young man’s question in verse 17?

- c) Why, in verse 18, does Jesus reject the young man’s compliment of him as “good teacher”?

- d) In verse 19, Jesus quotes from the “second table of the Law,” that is, the section of the Ten Commandments dealing with our relationship with others. Did Jesus mean to imply that salvation can be obtained by obeying the Law? Explain.

e) Bottom line, what was the rich young man's problem? Was it money per se?

f) Why did Jesus say that it's hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God? (verse 25)
What things besides money can keep people out of heaven?

LOOK UP – Mark 10:28-34

It has been said that Jesus was born in the shadow of a tree. In other words, it was Jesus' destiny to give his life as a ransom for sinners. In this week's study, you will find that Jesus also calls his followers to a life of self-sacrificing love.

Mark 10:28-31 – A Prediction about Christ's Followers

a) What do you think Peter was hoping to hear after his statement in verse 28?

b) What do Jesus' words in verse 29 imply about our calling as Christians?

c) How is it that believers in Jesus receive homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields in this present age (verse 30)?

d) Why does Jesus add in verse 30, "and with them, persecutions"?

e) Jesus' words in verse 31 are similar to those recorded in Mark 9:35. What do these words mean to you?

Mark 10:32-34 – A Prediction about Christ

a) Verse 32 indicates that the followers of Jesus were now astonished and afraid. What were they astonished at? What were they afraid of?

b) This is now at least the fourth time (in Mark) Jesus has told his disciples about his impending death and resurrection. Why the repetition?

c) What new information does Jesus give in this prediction, compared to the previous ones (verses 33-34)?

LOOK IN – Reflect

a) In light of Jesus' words in verses 29-30, how do you feel about the way we promote the Christian life to unbelievers?

b) What have you given up for the cause of Christ (verse 29)? What have you gained (verse 30)?

c) Do you look forward to your heavenly rewards (verse 30)? Why or why not?

LOOK OUT – Apply

At this point in the book of Mark, it is evident that Jesus is totally focused on his calling to lay down his life for sinners. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th-century martyr and author of *The Cost of Discipleship*, said, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." It ought to be costing you something to follow Jesus. At the same time, Jesus promises rewards, both on earth and in heaven. So count the cost, but also receive the rewards with joy and gratitude!