

# THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

## ~Week Fourteen~ “The Not-So-Quiet Man” Mark 10:46-52



Life Groups

**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](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

### LOOK BACK – Mark 10:35-45

James and John, also known as the “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17), provoke an interesting exchange between Jesus and his twelve disciples. Jesus’ words give us important clues about the secret of significance in the Kingdom of God.

a) How does Matthew’s account of this episode (Matthew 20:20-28) throw additional light on the story?

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b) What were James and John expressing (verse 37) that is at the core of every human being?

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c) How did James and John come to discover what Jesus meant by drinking out of his cup and being baptized with his baptism (verse 38)? What did this figurative language mean? (Hint: see Acts 12:2, Revelation 1:9)

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d) Why were the other ten disciples “indignant” in verse 41? What were they feeling?

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e) In your own words, summarize Jesus’ teaching in verses 42-45.

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## LOOK UP – Mark 10:46-52

As on many previous occasions, Jesus encounters an individual in need of his compassion and healing power. This story recounts the healing of blind Bartimaeus outside the city of Jericho. Through this healing, another broken person is added to the roll of the redeemed and becomes a dedicated follower of Christ!

### Mark 10:46-48 – Bartimaeus Pleads for Mercy

- a) What interesting detail does Matthew add about Jesus' encounter with Bartimaeus (Matthew 20:30)? How do you harmonize Mark's account with Matthew's?

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- b) What do you suppose led Bartimaeus to believe that Jesus would be able to restore his sight (verse 47)? Can you recall another incident in Mark's gospel when Jesus healed a blind man?

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- c) What is the significance for you of the name "Son of David" (verses 47-48)?

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- d) Why do you think the people in the crowd wanted Bartimaeus to be quiet (verse 48)?

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### Mark 10:49-52 – Jesus Provides Mercy

- a) What do you learn about the gospel from Jesus' dealings with the blind man?

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- b) Jesus commends Bartimaeus for his faith (verse 52). Based on your study of this passage, how would you define faith?

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## LOOK IN – Reflect

- a) Imagine Jesus coming up to you and asking, “What do you want me to do for you?” (verse 51) What would your answer be?

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- b) When it came to asking God for help, Bartimaeus was both unashamed and unstoppable. As you look at your prayer life, which words best describe you: bold and persistent . . . or timid and impatient? Or something else? Explain your answer.

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## LOOK OUT – Apply

Think for a few moments about the crowd of people gathered around Bartimaeus as Jesus departs Jericho. It’s the blind man’s last chance to be healed by Jesus, yet the townspeople rebuke him and tell him to be quiet (verse 48). David E. Garland writes, “The crowd’s negative reaction to the blind man’s cries for help raises the issue of our compassion for those in need. The community may want to silence embarrassing cries that serve to accentuate the helplessness of those whom they have failed to help. . . . The church, if it is to be the church of Jesus Christ, can never be like the crowds that try to repress the urgent yells of those who desperately need help or try to cover up the tragedies that strike people’s lives. Like Jesus, we must be willing to listen, to stop, and to respond.”\*

Spend some time processing the above paragraph. Consider whether we as a church are sensitive to, or embarrassed by, the needs of certain groups of people in our community.

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\* David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary: Mark* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 424-5.