



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday –February 25, 2024

To Know Christ...

Mark 10:36-37 "And He [Jesus] said to them [James & John], "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" They said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory."

Mark 10:51 "Jesus said, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!"

Can you imagine having Jesus ask you, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" This is intended to be a thought provoking question. How would you answer Jesus today? (Take the time to answer before continuing.)

In Mark chapter 10, Jesus asks this same question to a set of brothers who are apostles, as well as to a blind beggar. The apostles James & John want to be granted positions of power and authority on Jesus' right and left hands. What they wanted was self-serving. It even made the rest of the apostles feel indignant with them. (v 41) Jesus responded to their self-centered request with this statement, "**But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.**" (v 40) Jesus knew it was not His place to grant their request, and He refused to do so (but those places were prepared for someone).

At the end of Mark chapter 10, Jesus asks the same question to a blind beggar who had been crying out for MERCY while being met with shame and demeaning words from the disciples. The blind beggar asks to regain his sight. Could this also be self-centered? However, immediately after regaining his sight, the formerly blind beggar begins following Jesus on the road. Jesus knew his heart; this was a request that would bring about devotion. (Luke 18:42-43 accounts for the beggar's faith, and after being healed, he followed Jesus GLORIFYING GOD.)

James & John's request was born from a self-serving faith and was refused by Jesus. The blind beggar's request was from faith that would echo God being glorified. Can you see why Jesus responded the way He did to both requests? ... Would you like to change what you asked for? What do you think Jesus is looking for in prayer?

- Carey Terry