

### Media and Graphics Notes

<b>Sermon Starter Video?</b>	Yes
<b>Sermon Notes?</b>	Yes
<b>Other Notes</b>	

## Key Questions

### ***What is this sermon about?***

This sermon is about the ways that we can respond to Jesus as illustrated by James, John and Bartimaeus.

### ***Why is this sermon important?***

It is important because it doesn't matter if we have gotten it wrong in the past, we can still follow Jesus.

### ***What is the context of this sermon?***

This is the week before Palm Sunday. It is the first Sunday of spring break and the weekend of the Big XII tournament.

### ***What are the next action steps?***

Let the past go and keep following Jesus.

### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

The good news is that we don't have to get it right all the time to follow Jesus.



## Metadata

### **Topic(s)**

1. Share Christ

### **Sermon Books of the Bible**

1. Mark

### **Tags**

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, Eldorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, Mark, healing, James, John, Jesus

5th Sunday in Lent  
Mark - What do you want me to do for you?  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1KWUPve>

Mark 13, 2016  
Mark 10:35-52  
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,142  
Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1WiWYT2>

---

*This work by Andrew Conard is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>.*

---

<b>Mark 10:35-52, CEB</b>	<b>5</b>
Response to Scripture	5
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
Sermon Starter Video	5
Mark: Eyewitness to the Gospel	6
Sermon Notes and Scripture Study	6
Take Notes	
God Speaking	
Tool for Spiritual Growth	
Prayer	6
<b>Opening Story</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>We Make the Wrong Assumptions</b>	<b>6</b>
James and John	6
The Setup	6
Mark 10:35	
Your Experience	
Jedi Mind Trick	
Personal Reflection	
Response and Request	7
Context of Passion Prediction	7
Reflecting on Peter, James and John	8
Implicating Ourselves	8
Like Peter	
Key Quote - Mark Twain	
Like James and John	
<b>Blind Bartimaeus</b>	<b>9</b>
Different Conversations	9
Lead In	
Response to Jesus' Question	
Reflecting on Blind Bartimaeus	10

5th Sunday in Lent  
Mark - What do you want me to do for you?  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1KWUPve>

Mark 13, 2016  
Mark 10:35-52  
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,142  
Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1WiWYT2>

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>10</b>
Still Following Jesus	10
James and John	
Peter	
Good News	11
Call to Action	11
Invitation	11
Closing Prayer	11

---

## Mark 10:35-52, CEB

James and John, Zebedee's sons, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They said, "Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your left when you enter your glory."

Jesus replied, "You don't know what you're asking! Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said, "You will drink the cup I drink and receive the baptism I receive, but to sit at my right or left hand isn't mine to give. It belongs to those for whom it has been prepared."

Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with James and John. Jesus called them over and said, "You know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, for the Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people."

Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward."

They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you."

Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

### Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

---

## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

## **Mark: Eyewitness to the Gospel**

He spent three years with Jesus. He watched Jesus work, heard him teach and walked with him in Galilee. He was there on the night in which Jesus was taken to be crucified. Before this man died, he passed on the testimony of what he had seen and heard. The gospel of Mark is that testimony.

## **Sermon Notes and Scripture Study**

### ***Take Notes***

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today.

### ***God Speaking***

I pray that you will hear God speaking to you sometime during the service today. Listen for God's word for you – something that helps you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Whenever you hear it, write it down.

### ***Tool for Spiritual Growth***

Then, take this bulletin home with you so that you can grow in your faith outside of worship by reflecting on what you heard today, praying for others connected with our community and reading scripture.

## **Prayer**

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

---

## **Opening Story**

---

## **We Make the Wrong Assumptions**

### **James and John**

Along with Peter, James and John were in Jesus' inner circle of disciples. They are at the center of many stories in the gospels. They left everything they had when Jesus invited them to come and follow him. They loved Jesus and yet they did not understand what following Jesus is all about.

### **The Setup**

#### ***Mark 10:35***

Hear again these words from Mark 10:35:

James and John, Zebedee's sons, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."<sup>1</sup>

### ***Your Experience***

Have you ever had someone start a conversation with you like that?  
Maybe a child, a co-worker, family member or friend.

"I am going to ask you something and I just want you to say "Yes."  
"Don't even worry about what I am going to say right now, just do it."

### ***Jedi Mind Trick***

It's like they are trying a Jedi mind trick on Jesus,  
"These aren't the droids you're looking for..."  
"We want you to do for us whatever we ask."

### ***Personal Reflection***

What do you think when someone leads off a conversation like this?  
I tend to be a little bit suspicious.

### **Response and Request**

Let's see how Jesus responds in Mark 10:36  
"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.<sup>2</sup>  
Jesus doesn't fall for it.  
He finds out what they really want.

James and John continue in Mark 10:37:

They said, "Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your left when you enter your glory."<sup>3</sup>

Really, James and John?  
This is what you are asking for?

### **Context of Passion Prediction**

You remember that Jesus has just made his final prediction that he would be handed over to the religious leaders, put to death and in three days would rise again. Jesus is on the way to the cross. He has tried to get this message across to his disciples.

When Jesus first predicts his suffering death, a few chapters earlier, we find it is Peter who objects. From Mark 8:31-33:

---

<sup>1</sup> Mark 10:35, CEB.

<sup>2</sup> Mark 10:36, CEB.

<sup>3</sup> Mark 10:37, CEB.

“Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.”

He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him.

Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”<sup>4</sup>

Peter didn’t get it.

James and John didn’t get it either.

### **Reflecting on Peter, James and John**

It is easy for me to look at these stories and think that this disciples don’t know what they are doing.

Peter, seriously? This is basic manners - don’t talk back.  
This is Jesus, God’s son, God in the flesh.  
He know’s what he is talking about.

James and John - calm down.  
You are already one of the twelve disciples.  
What more do you want?

### **Implicating Ourselves**

And yet, don’t we do the same thing today?

#### ***Like Peter***

Like Peter, how often do I try to tell God how things are going to be?  
I want to tell God what I have in mind for my life.  
I don’t always listen very well to what Jesus has to say.

Love your enemies? Pray for those who persecute you?  
Come on, Jesus, you don’t really mean that.

#### ***Key Quote - Mark Twain***

The author and humorist, Mark Twain, wrote:

---

*“It ain’t the parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me,  
it’s the parts that I do understand.”*

---

Do you ever have trouble with this? I do.

---

<sup>4</sup> Mark 8:31-33, CEB.



### ***Like James and John***

Like James and John,  
how often do I believe that being powerful is important to God?  
That having people know my name means success?

I don't always use the same words that James and John do, but I ask the same thing at times - "God, will you make me really important?"

Whenever we find ourselves in a place like this, we have missed the point.

---

## **Blind Bartimaues**

Jesus response to James and John is one of the rare occasions when Jesus did not do what was asked of him. He tells James and John, "I can't do that for you." It is in contrast to the story of blind Bartimeaus from our passage of scripture today which starts like this in Mark 10:46-47:

"Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road.

When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!"<sup>5</sup>

## **Different Conversations**

### ***Lead In***

Did you notice the difference in the initial conversation with Jesus?

James and John say:, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."<sup>6</sup>  
Bartimaeus says: "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!"<sup>7</sup>

### ***Response to Jesus' Question***

Jesus calls the blind man over and asks the very same question that he asks James and John:

Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Mark 10:46-47, CEB.

<sup>6</sup> Mark 10:35, CEB.

<sup>7</sup> Mark 10:47, CEB.

<sup>8</sup> Mark 10:51, CEB.

The blind man only seeks mercy from Jesus.  
Only after Jesus' question does he reply, "Teacher, I want to see."  
He asks for something that will make a profound difference in his life.  
He asks for something immediate.  
He knows where he is lacking.

Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.<sup>9</sup>

## Reflecting on Blind Bartimaeus

Man, I wish I responded to Jesus like this all the time.

I don't have it all together.  
I need your help.  
Jesus, have mercy on me.

What do I want you to do for me? Isn't it obvious?  
I want to see with your eyes.  
I want to love with your heart.  
I want to serve without the promise of a reward.  
Lord, Jesus, I want to follow you.

---

## Conclusion

We can follow Jesus.

## Still Following Jesus

### *James and John*

James and John had been following Jesus for nearly two years and here we find them asking to be put in places of honor right after he has told them that he is about to be put to death.

Jesus says, I can't do that for you.

Instead, let me teach you about what it is like to follow me. It means that you take the path of service. Don't worry, I am going there first.

You can follow me.

### *Peter*

Peter scolds Jesus when he first predicts that he will die.

He talks back to the Lord of all creation.

Jesus says, "Get behind me Satan."

But this doesn't disqualify Peter.

---

<sup>9</sup> Mark 10:52, CEB.

5th Sunday in Lent  
Mark - What do you want me to do for you?  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1KWUPve>

Mark 13, 2016  
Mark 10:35-52  
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,142  
Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1WiWYT2>

He still follows Jesus.

## **Good News**

The good news is that we don't have to get it right all the time to follow Jesus.

## **Call to Action**

So, let the past go.

Even if you know that you have messed up, you are in good company.

James, John, Peter - they all messed up.

It doesn't mean that you can't follow Jesus.

Keep following Jesus.

## **Invitation**

The invitation for us from scripture is that we might say the very same thing as the beggar that is on the side of the road:

"Jesus, show me mercy!"

When we ask for God's mercy, instead of telling God how it's going to be.

We can be healed

forgiven

and free.

## **Closing Prayer**

[Text here]

Amen.