



Sermon Discussion Guide

Mark 10:35-52 - Casey Stringer

January 18, 2026

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *Pastor Casey started off with a game of "Never have I ever." Try doing your own version... think of some things that are either wacky or very normal and run through the game. Two or three rounds maybe until you get down to one or two people... maybe none? Some ideas: Never have I ever gone skiing, been on a cruise, eaten sushi, been in a submarine*
- *On a different note: each week news from the world seems to come at us quickly. What has been weighing on your heart this week? Take a moment to share and listen.*
- *From the message this week: what brought you to Jesus in the first place? Was it transactional like James and John may have thought or was it more comforting like a set of rules or a "fence" to keep you within the boundaries? Or was it something more? Take a moment to share why you came to Jesus.*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**: Mark 10:35-52*
- *What words stick out to you in this passage? All of the messages so far about the book of Mark have spoken about his purposefulness as a writer. Why do you think he chose to use some of the language you noticed?*
- *Read Mark 10 leading up to our passage this week. Earlier in Mark 10 we get the story of the rich young ruler. Compare and contrast the story of the rich young ruler with that of the blind man.*
 - *What did they have in common?*
 - *What were the differences in the questions they asked and their responses?*
 - *Now add in James and John... why do you think Mark chose to combine these three stories together in the same general area?*



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- As we near the end of the section of Mark that Pastor Tim has described as "Following the Way", how do you see Jesus continue to instruct those following him to "follow the way?" What questions might the disciples have had after this encounter with Bartimeus?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- Talk for a time about what Jesus' mission really was. What did he intend to do in the world? (Try to avoid the sunday school answers of "to give us eternal life..." what else was he doing?)
- Why would this encounter have shaken his disciples that saw him as the future conquering (through might) king?
- Imagine this story in present day America. Retell the story in your own words. Who's the blind beggar? Who are the disciples that are misguided in their understanding, but seeking to follow? What would Jesus say today to each character?
- Where do you see the present day church in its relationship with Jesus. To use Pastor Casey's examples... is it like a vending machine (transactional)? Is it like a fence (following rules)? Or is it like a friend/mentor?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- What is your personal relationship with Jesus like? Friend, fence, vending machine? This can be intensely personal to dig into this. Share if you like, reflect silently if you don't want to share.
- This week as you go out, contemplate what it means to really see Jesus like Bartimaeus did. Eyes open and seeing. Without desiring gain because you



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knew Jesus. Without a new set of rules to follow to make you "holier." Seeing Jesus with truth, beauty, justice, mercy, patience.

- Read Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Blind Bartimaeus" aloud. (Some Prep Needed on the Greek additions! Link attached has some pronunciation help near the bottom). Answer for yourself to the question Longfellow has Jesus state: "What wilt thou at my hands?" What mercy would Jesus bestow to you?
 - <https://allpoetry.com/Blind-Bartimeus>
- If you're not so much the poetry type, try listening to the song "Thank You" by Paul Zach. It is a song about right focus in how we see Jesus. Listen through and spend some time in thankfulness either as a group or separately.
 - https://youtu.be/rHj_yUf3nWI?si=Oss7GGLMquUTqJ7w

Time of Prayer