

Home Group Notes

Ambitions Mark 10 :35-45

Introduction

What are your ambitions? For yourself? For your partner? For your children or grandchildren?

How far have you achieved these ambitions?

Ambitions: In some sense, we all have ambitions and even when we were quite young someone probably asked us 'What would you like to be when you are grown up?' Ambitions in themselves can be helpful in motivating us to exercise, study hard etc

Read Mark 10: 35-45 and Matthew 20:20-28

1 Who had an ambition to sit either side of Jesus in heaven? What is the possible source of this ambition?

2 Parents usually want the very best for their children and need to encourage them and promote their self-esteem. In what way does the mother of James and John make a request that is unhelpful to them?

3 How can parents, grandparents, partners and ourselves thwart God's specific plans?

4 How can partners, friends, parents and grandparents help their loved ones to have godly ambitions?

It is natural for us to want our loved ones to be promoted and honoured but it is dangerous if it causes them to lose sight of God's will for them.

Read Mark 10:35 and Matthew 20:20 again

1 What is wrong with the manner and content of the request?

Note the position of James's mother and the sentence in verse 35.

It is almost as though James and John want a religious short cut- we've helped you now do us a favour!

2 While the mother of James and John appears to submit/worship Jesus she merely wants something from him. Is there a warning for us all in this? What is true worship?

Responses Mark 10: 36-40

1 How does Jesus respond to James and John? V36 &38a

2 What example does Jesus give us to follow? Maybe link this to one of the signs of fruitfulness on the frontline.

3 James and John are quick to respond to Jesus. How much do you think they understood at this point? Do we take time to respond thoughtfully to the words of Jesus or do we respond at face value?

4 How did the other disciples respond when they heard about the request from James and John? Why were they angry? See also Mark 9:33-34

Read Mark 9:40-45

1 What does verse 40 tell us about Jesus as Son of Man?

2 How can we relate to this? Are we willing to put God's plans first for ourselves and our loved ones?

3 How does Jesus turn their thinking upside down?

We have a contrast between the selfish attitude of the disciples and the selfless attitude of Jesus.

4 How can we be more selfless and focused in God's way of doing things and encourage others to have a servant heart?

Prayer points

1. Pray that as a church and as individuals we may have servanthood at the centre of all we do and say.
2. Pray for those you know who are facing difficult decisions that they may know God's leading.
3. Pray that we will take time to truly worship God for who He is.