



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE SERVANT PREPARES HIS FOLLOWERS

Mark 9:1-10:52 • Lesson Seven

READY

- If you knew you had only a few weeks to live, how would you spend that time?
- How would your priorities change? What would you do to help your loved ones get ready for the future?

SET

Context of Mark 9:1-10:52

These two fast-paced chapters record the varied words and actions of Jesus, the Servant-Messiah sent from God. To the casual reader, this passage may seem to be a collection of unrelated, random incidents, but Christ is slowly, deliberately moving toward Jerusalem, the site of His final confrontation with the Jewish religious leaders. Knowing that time is short, Jesus sets about teaching and modeling for His disciples a number of important kingdom truths.

Keys to Text

The Transfiguration: Jesus underwent a dramatic change in appearance, so the disciples could behold Him in His glory. The kingdom splendor of Christ revealed at this event was intended as a preview of His majesty to be manifested at His second coming. The Gospel writers speak of his face becoming bright like the sun, and His clothes being dazzling white.

GO

Read Mark 9:1-10:52

1. What effect did the Transfiguration have on Peter, James, and John? What did this event reveal about Christ?
2. What specific lessons did Jesus teach His followers about servanthood in this passage?
3. Based on Jesus' encounter with the "rich young ruler," in what ways can material wealth be dangerous?
4. What does it mean that Christ gave His life as a ransom for many?
5. Given the performance of the disciples in the various incidents recorded in these chapters, how ready for leadership were they? If you had been training this group, would you have felt confident or alarmed? Why?
6. With what character in this passage do you most relate and why: the disciples who had just witnessed the glory of Christ? The parent of a child in trouble? The disciples confused over what lay ahead? The people scrambling for a position? The young ruler with tremendous wealth? Bartimaeus, fervently seeking the Lord's help?

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"The cost of true greatness is humble, selfless, sacrificial service. The Christian who desires to be great and first in the kingdom is the one who is willing to serve in the hard place, the uncomfortable place, the lonely place, the demanding place, the place where he is not appreciated and may even be persecuted. Knowing that time is short and eternity long, he is willing to spend and be spent. He is willing to work for excellence without becoming proud, to withstand criticism without becoming bitter, to be misjudged without becoming defensive, and to withstand suffering without succumbing to self-pity." — John MacArthur

Why do you think Christ's teaching of the "first shall be last; last shall be first" is so hard to swallow for most athletes and coaches?