



This is the 2nd in a 3part mini series exploring the occasions in Mark's gospel where Jesus predicts his death. Each week explores the context around and the implications of these predictions as we make our own journey to the cross at Easter. This week follows Steve's sermon from the morning of the 3rd March, 24. You might like to put in your diaries our services for Good Friday (11am, 3pm or 8.30pm) as a final stop on this journey.

Some suggested listening: You led me to the cross (Matt Redman); When I survey the wondrous cross; I have decided to follow Jesus; Lead me to the cross (Ligertwood); All to Jesus I surrender (Van Deventer/Weeden).

There are lots of questions here so don't feel you need to do them all. Please do Qs 1-6

1. Where have you seen evidence of God in your life this week? Are there any stories you might share?
2. Where do you have or see crosses in your life? Do you think of the cross as a sign of victory or defeat?

Read Mark 9:30-37 – Pause after this reading to let it sink in. You might like to read it again.

3. Why do you think the disciples found it hard to understand Jesus?
4. Why do you think they found it hard to ask him about it?
5. Do you sometimes find it hard to ask questions? What helps you to ask, what hinders?
6. What questions would you want to ask Jesus after he's made this statement?

You might like to pause and either make time for considering answers to the groups questions about Jesus' statement, or hold some silence for people to consider what other question they'd really, really, like to ask God but might be too afraid to.

Reread v 33-35

7. Have you ever been caught up in a conversation about 'who is the greatest?' Has this ever been personal to you?
8. Are there situations where you consider yourselves better than others or expect others to serve you? How do you manage this dynamic?
9. Jesus tells his disciples that they need to be the 'last and the servant of all.' What might that look like for us today? Do you have any experiences of serving others you could share? What did it feel like?
10. What kinds of things stop us from being '[servants of all](#)'?
11. Why do you think Jesus uses this argument about the greatest and least as a follow up to their unwillingness to ask about the way of the cross?

You might like to pause here and consider if there is anyone God is particularly asking you to serve and help?

Reread v 36-37 – It's important to realise that this incident revolving around children is not in the same context or offer the same application as Mark 10:13-16

12. If children were among the least in 1st C society, what might the equivalent be today? Who would Jesus have stand in front of us?
13. What would your response be in this scenario?
14. What does the idea of welcoming one of the 'least' mean to you, and in our society?
15. What do you make of Jesus' idea that welcoming the 'little ones' is the same as welcoming him?
16. Is there a person or group that you personally or collectively might be able to welcome or show hospitality to?

Final Prayers

- Is there anything that today's study has thrown up that you need to pray into?
- Are there any other things for which people would like prayer?
- Lift one another up to God for the week ahead.