ICON

THE EMPOWERING INVITATION OF THE CROSS

Kingdom Now

PART 4

Small-Group Discussion Guide

Main Passages: Mark 10:32-45; Mark 8:34

Introduction

Have you ever worked really hard to accomplish something, only to discover it wasn't nearly as satisfying as you'd expected? Sometimes we spend our lives chasing the wrong goals - and we don't even realize we're running in the wrong direction!

Throughout ICON, we've been discovering that Jesus invites us into a better way to live: the way of the cross. It's not just about believing in Jesus. It's about following him.

Read Mark 10:35-45 together.

Observation - What does the passage say?

1. James and John wanted the best seats in Jesus' kingdom. What did they misunderstand about where Jesus was going and what he came to accomplish?
2. In verses 42-45, how does Jesus contrast the world's definition of greatness with his own? What stands out to you about his words, "Not so with you"?

Interpretation - What does the passage mean?

3. There's nothing wrong with ambition or success. But how does following Jesus change why we pursue success, how we pursue it, and who benefits from it?
4. Jesus said he came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (verse 45). How does what Jesus did for us change what we're willing to do for others?

Application - How should we then live?

5. Where in your life are you most tempted to chase the world's definition of winning - career, money, recognition, relationships, or something else? How might you be aiming at the wrong goal?
6. Jesus invites us to lay down our lives, take up our cross, and follow him. What's one specific thing that following Jesus might cost you right now? Is there something you're reluctant to surrender?

Closing Thought

Salvation costs you nothing because Jesus paid the price. But following Jesus might cost you everything.

The good news is that when you choose to follow Jesus, you don't just get the promise of heaven someday. You get Jesus himself, and your relationship with him begins right now.

The way of the cross isn't always easy or intuitive. But it's a better way to live.

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