



The story of Aladdin and his three wishes is familiar to many. An all powerful being granting you anything you want is the dream of many. Reality says that if each of us were asked, we probably would misuse that opportunity. If God were to ask you the question, “What do you want me to do for you?” Would I really know the right answer?

Key Verse. *“Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” (Mark 10:38).*

In *Mark 8*, a turning point in Jesus’ life and ministry occurs. This is now the last year of his life and Jesus’ begins his unchangeable journey to Jerusalem and the cross. He begins to ramp up his teachings on the necessary suffering he is about to endure, and that the disciples will encounter as well.

Read *Matthew 19:28* and *Mark 10:35-45*. In Matthew Jesus seems to be setting the disciples up to be in positions of power. How would Jesus’ words in Matthew help us understand why James and John makes the request they do in *Mark 10*? Is Jesus contradicting himself?

Read *Matthew 20:20-21*. Why do you think James and John get their mother involved in this conversation with Jesus?

When am I tempted to get others involved in asking for something I want?

Read *Mark 10:37*. What is the essence of James and John’s request? If you were the other disciples, how would you be feeling with this?

How does our culture’s definition of greatness different than Jesus? How do they clash?

Read *James 4:3* and *1 John 5:14*. Do these two verses contradict each other in regard to making requests to God? How do they work together?

In *Mark 10:45* Jesus says even he did not come to be serve, but to serve. When looking for leaders either in the church, or in society, what main characteristics do we herald? How do they line up with Jesus’ teachings on leadership?

THIS WEEK:

- How do I typically answer Jesus’ question in my own life?
- How will I answer it this week?
- What am I looking for in a leader?