

# Small Group Study Guide

Surprising Answers from God

Series: Questions Jesus Asks Us

Matthew 20:30-33

From Sunday May 30, 2021

**Take a moment to pray for the Lord to still your mind, as well as direct your thoughts, conversation and response to the study.**

## Appetizer:

**Question:** Do you like to be served? Why or why not? What has been your best “service experience” on a holiday or day to day?

## Main Course:

**Have someone read Matthew 20:30-33**

**Question:** Think about the different characters in the passage (Jesus, the disciples, the crowd, and the blind-men). What are some of the different characteristics do we see here?

**Question:** Why would the crowd “hush” the blind men? What was it about their calls that made people frustrated?

**Discussion:** Jesus asks a very invitational question in the passage: What is it that you want me to do for you? This is basically saying, “I am at your service.”

Why would this have been a surprising response to the blind-men? And what do you think about this idea of Jesus being at our service?

**In the sermon, it was suggested that we don’t always know what we want from God.** We have inner longings and desires and concerns, but we may not have taken the time to express them to God. This could be for numerous reasons. **Why do you think we hesitate telling God our desires?** Discuss this for a bit.

Sometimes we don’t ask of God because “the crowd” around us creates a barrier for us. Either they dismiss our faith, or rationalize why our request is inappropriate, or they point to other ways for our desires to be answered.

**Question:** How do cultural voices today pull us away from crying out to God?

Sometimes we hesitate asking God for our desires because we’re concerned that they come across as selfish or grand. The blindmen went for the rafters when they told Jesus that they wanted to see.

**Question:** What is something radical that you have dreamed of that you have hesitated talking to God about?

One of the best ways to discern whether what you are asking God for is kingdom minded or not is to remember the nature of Jesus: coming as a servant (asking, “What do you want me to do for you?”) is a model for us that shows us what the kingdom looks like and what Jesus is all about.

**Question:** What would be a great counter-cultural, radical question to ask Jesus that aligns with His kingdom purposes?

## Dessert:

At the end of the day, we are probably a lot like the blind men: We want Jesus to open our eyes and allow us to see. We want to know him more, know his presence, know what he is up to. We also want to see him move in our lives and in our world.

**Take a few moments to discuss or to write down some things that you would like to see from God.** Make them specific. If you feel comfortable share a few of these ideas with the group. Commit as a group to praying for these needs.

Conclude with reading this passage out loud:

Earlier than our passage today, Jesus talked to his disciples about how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. When our agendas put our own resources and influence ahead of God, we make kingdom work very hard on ourselves. The disciples were shocked when Jesus said this because wealthy was seen as a blessing from God. Matthew 19:25-26:

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”