

DISCUSSION GUIDE

3 Consequences of Rejecting Christ

The Gospel of Mark - Week 50

ICEBREAKER: Do you have a collection? If so, what do you collect and why?

OVERVIEW: Every day we are faced with a decision: Let Jesus be in charge of our lives, or reject His Lordship and do life our own way. But all decisions have consequences, and when we reject Christ, it leads to some painful consequences that we will regret. The story of Bartimaeus provides an illustration of the consequences of rejecting Christ. He was blind, broke, and burdened. In this discussion we will go deeper with how and why we need to surrender complete control of our lives to Jesus Christ.

1. **Read Mark 10:46-52.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Just as Bartimaeus was blind and unable to see which way to go, rejecting Christ leads to spiritual blindness, preventing us from making good decisions.
Read Proverbs 3:5-8.
 - a. This passage teaches how to make really good decisions. Summarize it in your own words in one sentence.
 - b. What is the difference between "trusting in the Lord with all your heart," and "relying on your own understanding?"
 - c. Is this passage saying that you aren't supposed to use reason, logic, intelligence, and careful research when making decisions?
 - d. What does it mean to "think about Him in all your ways?"
 - e. Why does it tell us to not consider ourselves wise, but to fear the Lord and turn from evil?
 - f. How do you need to better apply this passage to your life?

3. Not only was Bartimaeus blind, but He was broke. When we reject Christ's Lordship, it leads us down a path of poverty. Looking back, can you see times in your life when rejecting Christ's Lordship resulted in poverty — financial, relational, emotional, or physical? Explain.
4. **Read Psalm 34:8-22.** What are the benefits promised when we choose to live under God's authority? What are the conditions we must meet to reap these rewards?
5. Are you living in poverty in any arena of your life? How can you better position yourself under God's full authority so that you can enjoy all of His intended blessings?
6. A third consequence of rejecting Christ is that it makes you burdened. Being blind and broke made life extremely hard for Bartimaeus. How does rejecting Christ make life harder than it has to be?
7. **Read Matthew 28:11-30.** A Rabbi's yoke is his teachings. How has following the Bible's teachings eased your burdens and given you rest?
8. Is there any arena of life that you are struggling to surrender fully to God? Explain. Are you willing to pray and ask God to give you the desire and power to fully surrender to Him?

The Last Word: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28-30