



5. a. A “ransom” (v.28) in the disciples' world is what someone might pay to give freedom to a slave. Jesus saw his approaching fate as the payment that would set free those who were enslaved in sin and wickedness, not least those who were in the grips of the lust for power and position—yes, people like James and John. In Matthew 20:21 and 32 Jesus asks what a mom of two sons want and what a pair of blind men want. How do their requests compare and contrast?

b. The two blind men have left one life behind and have begun a new one. It can happen to anyone who asks Jesus for something and finds Jesus' searching question coming straight back at them, piercing through the outer crust, and finding the real request bubbling up underneath. When has the Lord gotten to the heart of what you really wanted and then answered your prayer?

6. Jesus' question in Matthew 20:32, “What do you want me to do for you?” can be applied to us today. Think of areas in your own life where you need the mercy, touch, and healing of Jesus. Suppose today Jesus asked you, “What do you want me to do for you?” How would you answer?