



God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. John 3:17 (MSG)

- The nature of Jesus' questions will **challenge** us, but ultimately they're designed to **help** us.

- Jesus continues to **ask** these same questions of us.

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said, "All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God too. Luke 18:35-43 (NLT)

Two take-a-ways from the story:

- How you **identify** Jesus affects your encounter with Jesus. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Luke 18:37-38 (NLT)

- Sometimes the **opinions** of those around us demands a greater **response** from us.

"Be quiet!" the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!". Luke 18:39 (NLT)

- Jesus' question is an opportunity for the man to express **faith in Jesus**.

"What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said, "All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you." Luke 18:41-42 (NLT)

Lessons of faith from a former blind man:

- Faith believes that Jesus can do what you **need**.

"What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "I want to see!" Luke 18:41(NLT)

- Faith overcomes the **obstacles** you face.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

... as the body without the spirit is dead, also faith without actions is dead. James 2:26

- Faith believes for something **before** you **see** it happen. Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

God uses hard situations:

- Hard situations are the very thing God uses to draw us **closer to Him**.
- Hard situations are the very thing that helps us **express faith in Him**.

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups: *These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you allow the questions that Jesus asks others to also be asked of you? Do you allow Jesus' questions to challenge you? What is one question that challenges you most?
- Why is our encounter with Jesus affected by how we identify Jesus?
- What are some ways that the opinions of others affect our encounter with Jesus in a negative way?
- If you feel comfortable enough to answer, what would your response be if Jesus asked you - "What do you want me to do for you?" ?
- What does it mean that faith believes that Jesus can do what we need?
- The blind man had to overcome the opinions of people that tried to shut him up; Are there any obstacles you have had to overcome in order to express your faith in Jesus?
- How do we believe for something before we receive it?
- How do hard situations bring us closer to Jesus?
- How do hard situations help us express faith in Jesus?

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Deadline:
March 24th



Today's Talk..



What Do You Want Me to Do for You?

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

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