



Lent Reflection for Friday, March 10th

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Matthew 20: 29-34

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Jesus. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord,* have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!' Jesus stood still and called them, saying, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they

Today's reflection is by Kim Parkman

I ride the F train often. Lately, I have been noticing the same little girl and her family selling snacks and chocolate on the train. I see them on my commute both ways most of the time. She looks to be about 7 years old and the whole family looks extremely tired, weathered and quite frankly- very sad. When I first saw them, trying to sell the items, I said "no thank you", just like everyone else on the train. The family moved on. As the days passed and I continued to see them- I started to imagine what their lives must be like. Are they Venezuelan migrants and thus unable to legally work? Were they evicted from their home? What has brought them to this train car on a cold NYC winter night, selling chocolate for 8+ hours a day with their young daughter in tow? Is this how they are managing a living? If they are from Venezuela, how far did they walk and what did they endure on the way? What are they praying for at night?

I have heard this story of Jesus and the blind men before but I always focused on the blind men, pleading with Jesus for help until reading this again recently- I realize the crowd following Jesus

who are telling the blind men to be quiet are also vital characters. Why are this crowd telling the blind men to be quiet when they are asking for help? Why is the crowd dismissing them? Why are they seemingly trying to stop Jesus from helping them?

Of course- instead of walking away, ignoring their pleas or “telling them to be quiet”, Jesus asks “what do you want me to do for you?” and performs a miracle to heal them.

Who am I in this story? Who do I want to be in this story? Am I one of the blind men? Or am I the crowd? By calling ourselves “Christians”, we strive to act & serve as Jesus did. He does not dismiss those in need. Can I try my best to act as Jesus did?

I believe God performs miracles, but I also believe that sometimes we are the conduit for other people’s divine interventions. What if I gave a homeless person some food, coffee or a metro card rather than walking by; what if I check in on a neighbor or a friend whom I haven’t spoken to in awhile; what if I did an unexpected act of kindness for a coworker; what if I picked up some extra food on our weekly grocery trip to put in the Tiny Purple Pantry? what if I finally registered as a donor with *Be the Match*? and what if I bought some chocolate from that little girl?

What if I tried asking those around me “what do you need help with?” like Jesus did rather than dismissing people in need like the crowd in the story? Some of these examples may be small gestures and others are larger commitments but they all might be part of the miracle someone else has been praying for.

Kim Parkman lives in Kensington with her husband Zack and their 2 children Adelaide and Gideon. They have been attending This Little Light at Holy Apostles since 2019.

