



Week of October 28, 2018

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you."

⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

⁵² Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Describe an incident you observed as a bystander. Did you do anything? Why or why not?
- B. Describe a poor experience you had dealing with a bureaucratic system. Was anyone sympathetic? How could the system have been improved?

Bible Study Questions:

- 1. In verse 48, why do you think "many" would attempt to order Bartimaeus to be quiet? Why do you think they didn't echo Bartimaeus' call to Jesus for mercy?
- 2. In verse 49, why do you think Jesus would call Bartimaeus to him rather than go over to Bartimaeus?
- 3. In verse 51, why do you think Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants when he is obviously blind?
- 4. In verse 51, Bartimaeus asks Jesus to see "again." As you imagine the scene, when do you think Bartimaeus lost his sight? How long do you imagine he had been blind?
- 5. The cloak is the primary tool of the beggar. Sitting with the cloak spread across his lap, the cloak would be used like a net to catch the coins being dropped to him. In verse 50, Bartimaeus throws off his cloak, presumably as a symbol of never returning to life as a beggar. If the cloak symbolizes a part of your life that you need to lose, is there a cloak you need to throw off?
- 6. Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus for mercy. In today's world, whose cries touch your heart? How have you used your influence to create change? Where could you do more to make things better for others?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers for ways to be a better influence on people you meet or in circumstances around you.