Jesus>Me...On the Way With Jesus—Being Restored

Key Passage: Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. 51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” 52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Key Idea:
Disciples follow the one who restores.

1. Asking for what we need. (v. 50-51)
   “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

   Invitation and perseverance

2. Following Jesus on the way. (v. 52)
   Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

   Sacrifice and transformation

   Transformation is liberation from being stuck, [from] being self-centered to being God-centered [from] blind eyes and a closed heart to the freeing perspective of compassion and hope.
   —Wolfgang H. Stahlberg, Feasting on the Gospels

   Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
   Mark 8:34–37 (NIV)

   All scripture is New International Version.

   (Message Outline continues on the back panel)
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS • Week of March 3, 2019
Jesus>Me...On the Way With Jesus • Being Restored

CONNECT
- In what areas of life is waiting a struggle for you? When do you find waiting most frustrating? What behaviors or attitudes arise in you when you are required to slow down or wait?
- How persistent are you when you want something? When has persistence served you well, or not so well?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
Be still: Take a moment to become quiet. In the silence, prepare your heart to meet Jesus, face to face. Ask Jesus to open your eyes so you can see what Jesus sees in you.
Read: Mark 10:46-52 aloud.
- Circle what stands out to you.

Individual Reflection:
- What do you sense are the barriers for you being the person God wants you to be and made you to be? How does it cause you to feel blind, stuck, and isolated?
- Imagine yourself in the crowd that day outside Jericho. You call out to Jesus, and he turns to speak to you saying, “What do you want me to do for you?” What is it you want Jesus to do for you? Write down however you would want to respond to Jesus.
- What arguments or messages arise in the back of your mind that prevent you from receiving whatever Jesus might want to give you? What answers would you like to give these arguments?

Group Debrief: In doing this exercise, what have you observed about yourself? In what ways do you sense God is inviting you to open your eyes or heart?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION
- Read Mark 10:46-52. What stood out to you from this week’s Scripture or message?
- What do you see happening in Mark 10:46-49? Describe the scene and your observations.
- What does Jesus’ response in vs. 49 tell you about his agenda or timing? In what way do you identify with the disciples in this passage?

(Scripture Reflection continued)
- How would you contrast Bartimaeus’s actions to those of the disciples and other people who have met Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, in the last couple of chapters?
- Why do you think Bartimaeus caught the attention of Jesus over the entire crowd?
- What is significant about the titles Bartimaeus uses in calling out for Jesus?
- What does Bartimaeus want from Jesus? How does Jesus’ response reflect how he sees Bartimaeus and what he sees in Bartimaeus?
- What do you learn about Bartimaeus from this story (physically, spiritually, and socially)? Reflecting back on Mark 8:34-37, describe the transformation he experienced. What did it cost him?
- How does our blindness and self-centeredness cause us to be stuck? How does being God-centered free us? How does that transformation happen?
- What is the single most important truth you learned from this passage? How is this relevant or applicable to the restoration you desire for yourself or those around you?

PRAYER and BENEDICTION
Share your requests: Are there personal challenges the group can pray for this week?
Pray for one another: Thank God for what you have learned and ask God for wisdom to apply it this week.
Closing prayer: Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, vision to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, a life to proclaim you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

AT HOME CHALLENGE
Read or listen to the weekly passage via audio on your SBPC APP. Spend time listening to God’s promptings in your heart. What is Jesus revealing to you? What does he desire to transform and restore in you? How will you respond?