
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 27

Small Group Questions: The Last Giant–Self (Miniseries Part 5)

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Read

Mark 10: 46–52; Ephesians 2:1–5 and 5:8; and Matthew 16:25

Reflect

In Jericho, a blind man named Bartimaeus is begging by the side of the road when he learns that Jesus is passing by. He cries out, asking Jesus to have mercy on him. Many in the crowd rebuke Bartimaeus, but he continues to call out. And Jesus stops, asking, “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus asks to recover his sight. And immediately he is healed for his faith. Rather than follow his own way, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on the way—Jesus’s way. How does this story reveal how our own “self” may be the giant that needs to fall?

Pastor Adam Martin highlights several things we can learn from Bartimaeus:

1. He cried out.
 - a. Why does Bartimaeus cry out to Jesus? How does it differ from what he asks from the crowd?
 - b. How have you seen God use broken people to reach those who think (or appear) they have it all together? Why is it harder for God to use people who think they have it all together?
 - c. How much do you rely on God? Does the way you make decisions reflect it?
2. He let go of everything that hindered him.
 - a. For blind Bartimaeus, his cloak is vital to his existence; it’s where people toss him coins. But he flings it off the instant Jesus calls to him. What is your cloak? What do you rely on most?
 - b. What is something familiar and comfortable that would be hard to let go of in your life?
 - c. How might something considered “good” still be a hindrance to you running to Jesus?
3. His “way” changed.
 - a. Jesus tells Bartimaeus his faith has healed him. What isn’t practical to change or leave, but you feel it’s what God is calling you to do?
 - b. When have you realized that you were only seeing your own problems and desires? What was this blindness mainly caused from? Self pity, self sufficiency, self condemnation, comfortable complacency, other?
 - c. Why is it hard to ask God for a challenge, a dream—for something bigger than you could handle on your own?

How does God demonstrate his heart toward us?

1. Jesus stopped.
 - a. Do you feel that God hears the honest and vulnerable cry of your heart?
 - b. Have you ever felt too broken (shame) to cry out to God? Or have things gone so smoothly (pride) that you didn’t feel you needed him? Explain.

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you? If your next step is baptism: please text 843 793 0320.