

RECAP

As you reflect on last week's practice (*The practice of being known*), were you able to discern a difference in how you approached God, how you saw yourself, and how you spoke on behalf of others?

IDEA 1

In the beginning of Jennifer's sermon she stated "On the road with Jesus, we will come face-to-face with what we are ashamed of, our brokenness, our discomfort with pain - both our own and others - reckoning with our need and a decision about what we will do - will we stay by the way, or follow Jesus on the way?"

What do you believe was the shame, brokenness, or discomfort Bartimaeus had to confront w/ Jesus?

Why do you think it's so difficult for us to recognize or come to truth with our need and desperation for Jesus?

What does it mean to "stay by the way" and "follow Jesus on the way?"

IDEA 2

Jesus said "Tell him to come here." Thus, Bartimaeus threw his coat & jumped up to him. The cloak often is seen as symbolic gesture that reflected a posture of surrender and trust.

Compare the reaction of the crowds, the disciples, and blind beggar. Whats the significant of blind bystander being one of the first to identify Jesus as the Son of David?

What do believe Bartimaeus' cloak represented? Security, shelter, all he owned?

Read Hebrews 12:1 together - How does this text relate to the story of the blind beggar?

What are your barriers that affect how you respond to Jesus?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The story of Bartimaeus the blind beggar has a climatic point when Jesus' asks him "*What do you want me to do for you?*" Consider reflecting on this question individually and then sharing with your group what you believe would be your answer to God.

What do you want me to do for you?

What do I want Jesus to do for me?

- Physical Healing
- Emotional healing
- Grant you courage, or hope, or freedom
- Remember, this is not manipulation or coercion, its an invitation to God who knows your request.

APPLICATION

The Practice of Persistence

Consider how this story highlights that Jesus was willing to be approached by all people no matter their needs. Jesus is present, and accessible to each one of us even in his physical absence. As you look at your life, Is there a situation where you would like to come to Jesus with boldness of faith.

Take some time to write out a bold prayer about this situation

Jesus, I need you to.....

Use your practice of persistence to pray this prayer both this week and moving forward as God leads you.