

Bible Study

For small group discussion or personal journaling

Mark 10:46-52

*also references 10/24/21 sermon by Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas;
hear on our FB page, UMCSierraMadre; text contact sierramadreumc@gmail.com
"Take Heart"*

Sermon and Bible study also available on our website, smumc.net

Day 1. Being blind. Read Mark 10:46-52.

Physical blindness. Discuss in your group or journal.

- Do you know anyone who is blind?
- Are you, yourself, blind?
- Have you, or someone you know, ever faced challenges with their vision?
- What is it like to be physically blind?
 - What might be some positive aspects to being blind?
 - What are some of the negative aspects to being blind?
 - How do sighted people respond to blind people, treat blind people?

Now review the questions above and consider them in terms of spiritual blindness. How would you answer them in reference to a person who is spiritually blind?

Day 2. Jesus leads the procession. (verse 46)

The procession Jesus leads is different from the processions of the world. Choose an issue you care about, such as homelessness, the environment, immigration policy, just to name a few. Keeping your issue in mind:

- Compare Jesus' procession to the processions of the marketplace.
- Compare Jesus' procession to the processions of the politicians.
- Compare Jesus' procession to the processions of the professionals and the bureaucrats.

Reflect in your group or journal about your thoughts on what distinguishes Jesus' procession from the processions of the world.

Day 3. Jesus calls others to follow. (verse 49)

- Have you ever been told to "Be quiet!" Share in your group or journal.
- Have you ever told someone else to "Be quiet!" Share in your group or journal.
- Bartimaeus sits and waits for Jesus, and when He comes, Bartimaeus is ready.
 - Share in your group or journal about the sequence of events – what does Bartimaeus do and then what does Jesus do, and so forth
- Share, also, about the affect Jesus' recognition of Bartimaeus has on the crowd. How does their behavior change, once Jesus calls for Bartimaeus to come to Him?

Day 4. Jesus heals and grants mercy. (verses 49-52)

Reflect together, or in your journal, on Jesus' stunning question to Bartimaeus:

"What do you want me to do for you?"

Consider who Jesus is, who Bartimaeus is, who we are... How would you answer?

Read again the interchange between Jesus and Bartimaeus.
Reflect/discuss/journal.

Going deeper... The blind man, now healed, leading the spiritually blind.

Bartimaeus is an example of discipleship; aka, Jesus-following. Reflect on each of the steps, below, in your group or journal. How does your discipleship compare with that of Bartimaeus?

- Place yourself "alongside the road," so you are ready when Jesus comes

near.

- Are you anywhere near a road right now in your life where you might encounter Jesus?
 - If so, are you committed to being there?
 - If not, what road, what path do you need to move to? What needs to change?
- Cry out to Jesus, even in the face of public ridicule.
 - Are you a quiet, secret, hidden watcher of Jesus?
 - Or are you a loud, public proclaimer of your need for Him and your desire to know Him better?
- Go to Jesus when He calls.
 - Can you get up out of whatever you're in the midst of, put it behind you, and go to Him when He calls? Are you ready?
 - Or do you sit immobile and watch someone else go to Him while you continue to wait. "I'm not ready, yet" or "That's not for me" or...
- Honestly tell Jesus what you want, getting honest with yourself, as well.
 - Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?"
 - He is asking you to look deep inside yourself and come up with a meaningful answer. What will your answer be?
- Most importantly – Follow Jesus on the Way.
 - You learn the Way by hanging out with others who are following the Way
 - You learn the Way by reading and studying the Word
 - You learn the Way through prayer, worship, generosity and service to others.

Close with prayer.