

NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED - WEEK 2

Bartimaeus: Stop Pretending

Icebreaker

What's something simple you've stubbornly refused to ask for help with?

Overview

Read **Mark 10:46-52**. Bartimaeus is blind, begging beside the road, and completely aware that he needs help. When he hears Jesus is near, he refuses to protect his image. He cries for mercy, responds when Jesus calls, and tells Jesus exactly what he wants.

Desperation doesn't begin when things get bad. It begins when we're finally willing to admit how bad things are.

1. Get Loud

Read Mark 10:46-49.

Bartimaeus cries, “**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**” The crowd tells him to be quiet, but he shouts even louder. What he needs from Jesus has become more important than what people think about him.

LOOK AT IT

- What does Bartimaeus ask Jesus for? What does he refuse to do when the crowd pushes back?
- What happens when Jesus hears him?

EXPLORE IT

- Why are we often more comfortable looking okay than admitting we are not okay?
- What voices can keep people from asking for help, praying honestly, apologizing, getting counseling, or admitting a problem?

GO DO IT

- Where might protecting your image be keeping you from getting the help you need?
- What would crying out to Jesus honestly look like for you right now?

2. Get Up

Read Mark 10:49-50.

Jesus calls, and Bartimaeus moves. He throws aside his coat, jumps up, and goes to Jesus. He cannot stay where he is and go where Jesus is calling him to be.

LOOK AT IT

- What actions does Bartimaeus take when he hears Jesus is calling him?
- What does his response communicate about how seriously he takes the invitation?

EXPLORE IT

- Why do we sometimes ask God to change our circumstances while resisting changes in ourselves?
- What's the difference between earning God's mercy and responding to the mercy He freely gives?

GO DO IT

- If Jesus answered the prayer you've been praying, what response might be required from you?
- Is there something you need to begin, end, confess, forgive, tell someone, or get help with?

3. Get Honest

Read Mark 10:51-52.

Jesus asks Bartimaeus, **“What do you want me to do for you?”** Jesus isn't lacking information. The question creates space for honesty. Bartimaeus simply answers: **“My Rabbi, I want to see!”**

LOOK AT IT

- Why is Jesus' question surprising? How does Bartimaeus answer?
- What happens after Jesus heals him?

EXPLORE IT

- Why can naming what we really need be difficult, even with God?
- What do you notice about the movement from Bartimaeus sitting beside the road to following Jesus down the road?

GO DO IT

- Imagine Jesus asking you, “What do you want Me to do for you?” What is your most honest answer?
- What would it look like for your need to lead you not only to Jesus' help, but into deeper following of Jesus?

Now What?

GET LOUD: Where do I need to stop pretending and ask for mercy?

GET UP: What response or movement may Jesus be asking of me?

GET HONEST: Jesus, what I really need is

You don't have to clean yourself up or impress Jesus. But you do have to stop pretending you don't need Him.

Group Prayer

Give everyone a quiet moment to speak honestly to God. Then pray together for mercy, courage to respond, and the faith to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

On Your Own

- **Day 1 - Mark 10:46-52:** Notice every choice Bartimaeus makes as Jesus passes by.
- **Day 2 - Psalm 51:1-12:** Practice honest prayer and dependence on God's mercy.
- **Day 3 - Hebrews 4:14-16:** Reflect on what it means to approach God confidently for mercy and grace.
- **Day 4 - Mark 10:52:** Ask what it would mean for you to follow Jesus “down the road.”