

Sunday, February 12, 2017 - "Lessons from a Blind Beggar" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Luke 18:31-43

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- How many of you want better spiritual discernment or awareness?
- Background: Starting in Luke 9 Jesus begins walking towards Jerusalem and his death on the cross
 - He was preparing his disciples to lead the church after he was gone
- That was the 6th time Jesus foretold his own death
 - 1) He knew all that would happen to him (Yet he still went/was obedient)
 - 2) Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies (Is 55, Is 50, Psalm 32 etc.)
 - 3) The disciples were clueless
 - They understood none of these things
 - They were spiritually blinded
 - ***Spiritual awareness is not a matter of intellect BUT a Spirit infused thing (1 Cor)
 - It is foolishness/folly to those that are perishing
- The story of the blind beggar
 - He cries out "Son of David" (not ordinary). He knew something those close to Jesus didn't even know
 - "Have mercy on me" (quoting King David...also not ordinary)
 - In those times everyone knew their place/status
 - There was a hierarchy of status and authority & EVERYONE had authority over the beggar
 - But he spoke up anyway...even though it could have been dangerous for him
 - Jesus Responds and heals him
 - ***The beggar put his faith into action and that was why Jesus responded***
 - "Those who could see were blind, and he who was blind could see" - Doug Kempton
- 4 Lessons from the Blind Beggar
 - 1) **PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND EXPECTATIONS CAN BLIND YOU TO THE WORK OF GOD**
 - Power/Privilege/Authority
 - We must be willing to unlearn some things
 - 2) **VICTORY COMES OUT OF TRAGEDY**
 - Glory follows suffering
 - From last week: Joseph's response was to be emboldened NOT embittered
 - 3) **DESPERATION FUELS MOVEMENT**
 - Unless you know you are blind, you will never cry out to Jesus
 - We all come to God bankrupt and bring nothing to the table
 - 1 John 4:1,4 "Little Children"
 - 4) **YOU MUST EXERCISE YOUR FAITH IF YOU WANT MORE**
 - Idea behind spiritual disciplines
 - 15 minutes/Coming up for prayer/LENTEN SEASON OF FASTING
- Image of dancing
 - Following God is a dance
 - God is saying (like the picture of Doug dancing with his granddaughter) "Little children, I got ya"

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Explain your spiritual awareness or your discernment? How has God been growing/challenging you in that area?
2. What are some of the preconceived notions or expectations that God is asking you to let go of?
3. How do you do with suffering? What has God showed you about suffering for his glory or victory from tragedy?
4. Do you feel desperate for God? Why or why not? How is God calling you to grow in desperation for Him?
5. How is God calling you to exercise your faith? What challenge has God put before you regarding spiritual disciplines?
6. How does the idea that we are God's "little children" affect you?
7. What is God calling you to or inviting you into as a result of this passage and/or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: Mark 5 Tues: Mark 6 Wed: Mark 7 Thurs: Mark 8 Fri: Mark 9**

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**