

Give it a Year Week 25



## Matthew 20:30-34

"Two blind men were sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!' The crowd scolded them, and tried to get them to be quiet, but they just shouted louder, 'Lord, have mercy on us!' When Jesus heard them, he stopped and looked their way. Then He asked, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' 'Lord, we want to see!' they said. Jesus felt compassion on them so He touched their eyes, and instantly they could see! Then they all started following Jesus"

As followers of Christ, we know how important it is to love. Jesus said that love was the greatest commandment. He also said that others would know that we are His disciples by our love for others. Jesus is love. God is love. And in order to be more like Jesus, we need to love more and love better.

In reading through the scripture above, we see how Jesus loved on two blind men who had been overlooked by others and by society as a whole. Jesus went after all people...the outcasts, the hopeless, the loveless, the unsure, the imperfect, the misfits, and everyone in between, including us. He gave us this beautiful example to not ignore anyone. And truth be told, we may not be ignoring or overlooking people on purpose. We may just be too busy to see others around us.

So how can we love the people that we might be overlooking?

All of God's Promises come with a condition or a step of faith that is required on our part prior to the promise. The promise of this scripture is perfect peace. The condition is that our minds must be steadfast, trustingin God. First, it's helpful to begin to listen well and listen for clues that people are in pain. The scripture said that these two blind men were sitting by the sideline on the road. Jesus is walking through this place, and He has this huge crowd around Him. These blind men are on the outskirts of all this activity and hustle and bustle. Why? Because of their disability. They are ignored and cast to the side without a voice. So, what do they do? They start shouting. People tried to silence them but, they shouted all the louder. "Lord, have mercy on us". The only way they could get attention was by shouting. Then in verse 32 it says, "When Jesus heard them..." In that entire crowd only one person actually heard those two men, only one person heard their pain. Everybody else heard the noise coming from them, but one person in that entire crowd heard the pain in their voice.

After you notice their pain, you stop what you are doing. Stop multitasking. Stop rushing. Just stop. Verse 32 says, "When Jesus heard them, He stopped and looked their way". He was spiritually tuned in, He was listening for pain, and when He heard that cry, He stopped. If we want to be used by God, we have to get used to being interrupted.

After you stop, we have to begin to look past people's behaviors to see their value. People all around just thought these blind men were being rude. They didn't stop to see them. They just thought they were causing commotion for commotions sake. But Jesus listens, He stops, and He looks. He turns His attention to where He hears these men yelling. He looks past their behavior to see their value and He's filled with compassion.

Then once you see their value, don't assume you know what they need. Verse 32 continues, "Then He asked, 'What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus knows what they need but, He still asks. He listens, He stops, He looks at them, and He asks. People don't always want to be fixed; they want to be heard. Your "fix" for them, might not be helpful to their situation at all. Don't assume you have the answers to their situation. Ask.

And finally, we do whatever we can to help. We serve... where we can, when we can, and let God do the rest. Verse 34, "Jesus felt compassion for them, so He touched their eyes, and instantly, they could see! Then they started to follow Jesus." So many people around us are in the dark, they have no idea where they are going, where they came from, who they are, what their identity is, what their purpose is, why their life matters, they don't know their significance, they don't know Christ died for them, they're in the dark. We live around so many lost people who are stuck in the dark yet, we have access to the light. We aren't always going to be able to help in major ways, but we always have access to the greatest thing that people need...Jesus...and we can offer that.

So to sum this up, in order to love on people well, especially those we may be overlooking, we need to look up from our busyness, hear the cries, see the pain, have compassion, and help where we can.

## **READ:**

John 13:35

Matthew 22:37-39

Matthew 20: 29-34

## **REFLECT:**

- Has there ever been a time in your life where you felt overlooked?
- Is there anyone in your life that you may be overlooking?
- How can you shine God's light this week and love on someone that the world has overlooked?
- Think through your daily routine...who are you overlooking? (ex: The Walmart greeter, the grocery delivery person, the McDonald's worker, the cashier, the Coffee Barista, the janitor, the mail carrier, your neighbor) How can you love on them this week?

## PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for loving me and not overlooking me in my darkness and in my mess. Lord help me to love better in all areas of my life. Begin to break my heart for what breaks Yours. Let me see the people in my path that You need me to see this week and always. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.