

DEEPER ROOTS

January 22-28

Planting Seeds: Read Mark 10:46-52

This week's text is an encouragement for us to listen. While we consider how we can be a blessing to the world around us, we see a picture of a man who knows more about listening than any of us ever will. Bartimaeus was born blind. He could not see. Hearing was all that he ever had. And Bartimaeus was listening for Jesus. We need to do a better job of slowing down and listening to the people around us. If we are going to bless our friends and neighbors, first we must hear them. But, before we are able to hear them, we need to hear Jesus. If our minds haven't been filled with the truth, and our hearts haven't been filled with His love, we are not going to be true blessings to those around us. We absolutely need to listen to the people in our lives, but first we must make time and space to listen to Jesus. When and where do you listen to Jesus? What are you hearing Him say to you right now? How can you do a better job of paying attention to voice of God this week?

Digging Deep: Read Mark 10:46-52, Mark 8:22-26, John 9:1-11

Just like our text for the week, here we have other stories of Jesus restoring sight to the blind. In each story where we see Jesus heal a blind person, and return their sight, we see Jesus act in a different way. He achieves the same result but goes it about it differently. This tells us about the nature of Jesus. He treats each person and each situation differently. They are not all the same. He is not a cookie cutter God. He may heal you, and He may heal me, but our stories will be different. We can't expect God to act exactly in our life the same way that He acted in the life of someone else. That is not who He is and that is not how He operates. Similarly as we pass the blessings that we have received down to others, we can not bless different people in the same way. Different people need different blessings in different ways. If you try to treat everybody in your life in the exact same way, it will feel fake and inauthentic. Your encouragement will seem cheap if it is repeated and not personalized. Share an example of how others have blessed you with the same result in different ways. How do you bless the different people in your life in unique ways?

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 1.22-28.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email Terence@pioneerdrive.org.