

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"V.I.P." | LUKE 18: 31-43 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a funny or unique way some people deal with pain?

"Third Time" (Luke 18: 31-34)

Jesus tells his followers why they are headed to Jerusalem: so He can be arrested, tortured and killed, and then rise to life. **What does it show about Jesus that he was determined to go through all of this?**

"V.I.P.: Visually Impaired Person" (Luke 18: 35-43)

Even though a beggar is blind, he is able to listen for, cry out to, and obey Jesus, even though the crowd is telling him to be quiet. **When people are suffering, what are ways they can still seek after God?**

A blind beggar would have been insignificant in that society. Many people struggle with feelings of insignificance and do all kinds of things to gain attention. **What are problems with seeking other people's attention? How can people be satisfied with God's attention and find significance in Him?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this section of Luke we see Jesus be obedient and head towards suffering, and we see a blind man seek Jesus in the midst of his suffering. **How have you handled suffering recently? Have you been taking time to listen to God and to cry out to Him? Take comfort in knowing Jesus suffered so you can have a close relationship with God no matter the circumstance.**

V.I.P.

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-9 AP: Marriage. GS. DC. Prep to Go. Men's. Job. At Risk. Foster to Adopt.
- B. Slide10 Warrior Fest: We are celebrating **30 years** of CMCS this coming school year! On Fri Feb.24 from 4-6:30pm we will be having our Annual Warrior Fest which we welcome current and prospective families to come out for a **fun night to see the campus, meet our staff, and see** how CMCS partners w/parents to *educate, equip and disciple* our students, for a lifelong commitment of loving & serving Christ! There will be food trucks, and obstacle course and just a great family time.
- C. Slide11 ICA Fair Trade Store: *Jubilee Exchange is out front after each service with fair trade and ethically sourced chocolates for Valentines day.*
- D. Slide12 JM - A great Justice Sun last weekend, TY. Workshops now on Web/App.

II. Slide13 Intro: V.I.P.

- A. We have two little sections this morning: Jesus prophesying his death for the 3rd time. And Jesus healing a blind beggar.
- B. We will talk about **Insignificance**. Maybe you felt **it** when you were *always* compared to one of your siblings that was *smarter, more athletic, or prettier* than you. Or when you notice that you were *always the last picked for kickball*.
 - 1. But spiritually, relationally, vocationally or otherwise - we feel we don't measure up. Small. Overlooked. Invisible. Insignificant.
 - 2. But God in choosing **Bethlehem** as the birthplace of the future King, shows how He delights in *bestowing His significance upon the worlds insignificant*.
- C. Context, from last week was what the disciples sacrificed/gave up. (*read* 18:28)
 - 1. When it comes to **sacrifice** Peter would later say, *For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.* (1 Pet.2:21)

2. Now let's read about Jesus' sacrifice.

III. Slide14 THIRD TIME (31-34)

A. From here on in Luke, everything is *shadowed or colored* by the coming cross.

1. 6 months have passed since they stood at *Caesarea Philippi*, where he told them the 1st time.

B. Jesus is walking towards Jerusalem with a sense of determination because his life-mission is about to be fulfilled.

1. He was set to get to Jerusalem, where he was going to be arrested, beaten, and whipped to within an inch of his life; and nailed to a wooden cross (like an insect on a display board).

C. His delivery to the Gentiles in order to be put to death, was Israel's ultimate sin. It was a base betrayal.

1. It was the Roman soldiery & the Roman power that did these things, but that doesn't minimize the sin of Israel's betrayal: *It is a more dark & dastardly thing to hire a man to murder a man, than to murder him yourself.*¹
2. Israel sinned in *handing Him over*, and humanity (outside the circle of revelation) *violated justice*.
3. There is nothing quite so appalling and so terrible, as *the murder of the innocent, the murder of Jesus*.

D. Slide15a But the final word is ... and on the 3rd day He will rise again!

1. Did you know there is not a single instance when Jesus foretold His Cross, but that at the same time He foretold *His Resurrection!*
2. Slide15b Hear the determination in His voice: (5 wills) He was ready and willing to walk the pathway of a divine ordination, with head erect, and w/ dignity; Slide15c not as a Victim but as a Victor.

¹ G. Campbell Morgan, The Gospel According to Luke, pg.210

IV. Slide16 **V.I.P. VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSON (35-43)** **BLIND BART READ**

A. Slide17 3 things to do when you can't see: *Listen. Pray. Obey.*

V. Slide18a **LISTEN (35-37)** **Hearing** a crowd go by, he inquired what this meant

A. He was unable to work, no money, no dignity, the crowd, the noise, and unable to see anything being blind.

B. Slide18b People that suffer with blindness learn how to **listen**. They develop a keen sense of **hearing**. They are very keen to *spatial awareness* (i.e. hearing your voice echo in a room to get a feel for it's size).

1. **Human Echolocation:** by tapping their canes, lightly stomping their foot, snapping their fingers, or making clicking noises. They learn how to listen.
2. When you and I cannot **see** God we need to **listen**. Instead of a **spatial** awareness, we need to have a **spiritual** awareness.

C. Slide18c You may not **see** God working in your life, but you can at least start by **listening** to what God is doing in other peoples lives.

1. If you're struggling in *beating an addiction* come Thursday night to CR and **hear** story after story of what God is doing in your brothers and sisters lives, who are/were struggling w/the same.

D. Slide18d So we need to learn how to listen.

VI. Slide19a **PRAY. (38,39)** **Cried** out.

A. Be silent, but he **cried** out all the more. (wait, I can't see, now you're telling me I can't talk?)

1. When you are **blind** and rely upon the **generosity of other people** around you, you don't wanna make the people around you **upset**.
2. But he wasn't trying to win the attention or favor of the crowd. He did this as the opportunity to win the attention of **One who could help**.

B. There are times to **pray** with reverence & formality. There are times to **pray** with hurt in your voice. Slide19b And there's times also to **pray** like a blind man

(yelling) *Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!* (then louder, *krazo* = shout/scream repeatedly) *Son of David, have mercy on me!*

[note: crowd calls Him, *Jesus of Nazareth*. He calls Him by His true identity, *Son of David*, Messianic term]

1. Slide19c This blind man was **not** to be stopped. **Not** by fear (what if he doesn't answer? What if he doesn't want to heal me? What if he doesn't care?). **Not** by lack of status (I'm just a poor beggar). **Not** by others (*be quiet blind beggar man!*). **Nope** this guy's a risk taker.

2. I remember what *Erwin McManus* said in his book "*The Barbarian Way*". He lists what diff animal groups are called (eg. whales/pods, fish/schools, lions/prides, crows/murders) **Do you know what a group of Rhinos are called? A Crash!**

a) **Why?** They can move 30 mph **but** can only see 30' ahead. Hence the name. **But with that horn pointing the way, who cares!** **And** that was our man *Blind Bart*.

C. Sometimes we pray, like the crowd, *shshsh*. **But sometimes you need to pray like a blind man!**

D. The blind man did not get a **NO** from **Jesus**, **so** he kept praying, he kept crying out, he kept getting louder. Slide19d *I can't see you, but You can hear me!*

1. Just like we pray today **not** being able to **see Him**, **but** knowing **He hears us**

VII. Slide20a **OBEY. (40-43)** He came near. (Mrk) *And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.*

A. Do you pray in a way that makes *Jesus stop!*

B. If he stays he misses the miracle. **Should I stay or should I obey? Or** as the 80's Punk Band, **The Clash** asked, *Should I stay or should I go now?* [If I go there will be trouble. And if I stay it will be double. So come on and let me know]

C. Slide20b **Jesus stopped.** With His face determined to get to Jerusalem, He stops.

1. **The devil** couldn't stop Him. **The crowds** couldn't stop Him. **His disciples**, couldn't stop Him, it took a blind beggar to do that. [pity & compassion]

2. God, ruling the world, stops when He hears *a person's cry*.
 3. Jesus commanded him to be brought to Him. Reminds us of vs.16, *let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God*. [maybe to awaken their *humanity & compassion?*]
- D. *Some people* are fine, staying blind. *Some people* aren't *sick and tired of being sick and tired*.
- E. What if he thought, *No Jesus you come to me. You show me a miracle*.
1. *Besides*, if I get up, I might lose my best begging spot, this has always been my spot. *Do you want me to give up what little security I have?*
 2. *Nope*, he jumped right up and headed over. *Slide20c* I guess *beggars can be choosers!*
- F. *Slide20d* 3 things to do when you *can't* see: *Listen. Pray. Obey*.

VIII. *Slide21a* **INSIGNIFICANCE.**

- A. *Bartimaeus* was the only name given in a miracle. (Mark 10:46)
1. To be blind, in that day was to be, **unseen**. Like those with any physical impairment in developing nations today, they are often **hidden**.
 2. In the first century, blind people depended on others to survive. Normally you would have your spot to beg from.
 3. In that day you were known by **your name**, **but not here**. I'm sure he was known as *the blind guy*. But you said his name was *Bartimaeus*?
 - a) Yes, but even his name wasn't a name, just *son of my dad*.
 - b) The phrase in Mark 10:46 *Bartimaeus ... the son of Timaeus*.
 - (1) *Slide21b* *Bar* (son of) *timaeus* (valued highly). I'm just the son of one who is *highly valued*. *I am insignificant in my society*.
- B. Who am I? Am I significant? Why am I significant? What do I base that on?
1. Bart would've been told and shown he was **insignificant** his whole life.
 2. There's a lot of things that he live through that we can learn from.

3. Slide21c Bartimaeus was an **insignificant** man that dared to believe he was **significant** to God.
- C. When he calls out to Jesus, he saying *I'm the son of Timaeus and You are the son of David* (aka Messiah), *have mercy on me*.
- D. When Jesus commanded him to be brought to him, Mark's account says what they spoke to him, *Take heart. Get up; he is calling you!*
 1. Mrk 10:50 *and throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus*.
 - a) He was giving up his spot where he would collect money for his daily bread. He did this for **something** greater, for **someOne** greater.
- E. Often when you and I feel **insignificant**, what we try to do is get the attention of people around us.
 1. Which you can win their attention, **but** we actually need to focus on the **One** who can change, what we need to change.
 2. It's so easy to live for *peoples attention*, **but** we need to learn to live for *God's attention*.
 - a) How do we find **our significance** in God? How do we find **God's attention**?
How do we find **God's approval**? Cry out to Him like Bartimaeus!
- F. Slide21d What do you want me to do for you? (Lit *What for you, do you want ME to do?*)
 1. Connection in Mark's account, *exact same question* rt b4 this [J&J, *Teacher we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you. What do you want me to do for you?*]
 2. He could've said, *Rabbi do a lesson on generosity for all this crowd to hear. He could've said, Rabbi make me a millionaire so I don't have to beg. But instead*, he says, *Rabbi I want to see*.

IX. Slide22a CONCLUSION.

- A. We pick up a lot in Lukes conclusion. (esp. a glimpse into Bartimaeus' heart & life)
 1. And immediately he recovered his sight and ... **did what?** followed him, glorifying God. Which caused all the people give praise to God also.

- B. What is your **response** this morning? Christian, or unbeliever, one who is confused w/life, feeling insignificant. What is your response to Jesus' question? *What do you want me to do for you?*
1. How will **you** answer that question this morning?
- C. Bart knew, he was **insignificant** to the whole community, *alone in this whole crowd*. And yet he knew he was **significant to God**. Which prompted him to shout out.
1. Slide22b The take away from Bart? *You don't need sight in order to be seen*
 2. He needed **sight to follow** the One who **saw** him.
 3. He didn't need his sight to be **significant**. He **heard** what Jesus had done, he **knew** who this **Son of David** was. *That changed his life.*
- D. What would happen *in your seasons of insignificance* if you just looked into the mirror every day and said, I am **insignificant** to a lot of people that are around me, but I believe I am **significant** to God! And I dare to believe I am **significant** to God. What would that change in your life?
1. Maybe you would *shout a little louder*.
- E. What do you want me to do for you? What we need most from Jesus is *what he has already done for us*.
1. Slide22c What do you want me to do for you? The answer is **nothing**, You've already done so much for me. Or, Lord, heal my spiritual blindness, that I might see you. Or, Lord, give me blank so that I may follow you. Or maybe Lord take away blank so that I may follow you.
 2. The story of blind Bartimaeus is simply this, Slide22c *that even when you feel insignificant, you can dare to live as if you are significant to God, because YOU ARE!*
- F. Keywords: listen, pray, obey, significance.