

PALM SUNDAY: I Want to See

Discussion Notes

Jesus' encounter with Bartimaeus is a little story happening on the fringes of the triumphal entry, that gives us an insight into the bigger story of Palm Sunday.

Read Luke 18.35-43

- When the blind man cried out to Jesus for help a chorus of voices tried to silence him. What are the voices that you hear that put you off persisting in prayer? Internal voices, other people, past hurts/disappointments, negative thoughts?

When Jesus acknowledged the title – Son of David – he was subtly acknowledging his identity as Messiah.

- What does it show us about the character of Jesus that he chose to reveal himself fully to a blind man, before revealing it to all Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
- We sometimes learn more about Jesus in our times of brokenness than in times of strength. Discuss.

Lex showed us some pictures of what it might've been like for the blind man, to go from seeing just shapes & colours, to seeing details and fullness. She explained that this is what our Christian life is meant to be like – not perfect – but full.

- Was that a helpful image? Can you identify with it at all?

Jesus asking, 'What do you want me to do for you?', is a big deal. Lex pointed out that the blind man could have asked for a number of smaller things (alms, food, provision) but he took full advantage of God's power and received a miracle. Best of all he saw Jesus up close and near.

- Do we hold back in what we ask Jesus for? Are we taking full advantage of the miracle working power available to us? Do we truly believe that Jesus wants to bless us?
- How much do you want to see Jesus clearly in your life right now?

The end of the story resulted in the crowds praising God. Jesus wants to work in our lives so that our blessing blesses others.

- How can we share what Jesus has done and is doing for us with our friends, colleagues and neighbours?
- Who could you invite to church this Easter? What do you need from God to do that – confidence, opportunities, wisdom etc?

Take some time to pray with one another. Share the name of a friend that you'd love to see encounter Jesus. Pray for one another for boldness and opportunities to extend an invitation over this Easter time. Pray for a greater revelation of Jesus for each of us.