WHAT **HE** SAID

re-imagining Christianity based on what Jesus *actually* said (and *didn’t* say) about life, God, and the meaning of *everything*

I was lying in the forward cockpit of a 60’ sailing catamaran in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, looking up at the stars and feeling troubled by the seemingly insane level of polarization that exists in Christendom these days (a recent ‘Christianity Today’ article described Conservative and Progressive Christianity as two *different* religions) wondering what I could do about it (if anything) or if I should even bother continuing to preach when it hit me; *just focus on what Jesus said*. A friend of mine urged me to do this twenty years ago and I (staunchly conservative at the time) resisted her suggestion because I was leery of her liberalism. Twenty years (and a long and winding trip *away* from the Church-ianity I was raised in) later, I find myself being rejected again and again by conservative Churchy people who think I’ve gone off the deep end, so I figured it might help me (and them) and *you* to try and strip things back to a very basic level by exploring what Jesus actually says (and *doesn’t* say) about life, God and the meaning of *everything*, as contained in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. I’m not going to use any translation; instead I’ll just work from the original Greek with the assistance of the Wuest New Testament which does the same (just better than I could ever do it). I don’t know how long this will take nor where it will take us but I hope this series helps you fall deeper in-love with The Godman.

WK 24: WHAT **HE** SAID ABOUT *FAITH HEALING*

MARK 10:46-52 (WT)

This is one of my all-time favorite Bible stories featuring one of my all-time favorite Bible story characters; Blind Bartimaeus. I truly hope this week lifts your spirits in a big way!

[when it comes to receiving your healing, keep in mind]

1. **WE ALL *NEED* IT🡪 vs46: “…Bartimaeus, *blind*, a beggar…”** Y’all, I *am* Blind Bartimaeus and so are you! We are all deeply in-need of healing. It’s time to just admit it.

***So, let’s do it. What’s an area in our lives where we need healing?***

1. **LIFE IS *ROUGH*🡪 vs46: “…Bartimaeus, blind, a *beggar*…sitting, as was his habit alongside the road…”** Wow, what a tough gig Bartimaeus had. This reminds me of the people all around us in the World (and maybe of you and me). People’s lives are *hard*; so, cut ‘em some slack. I think we could all spread a little more mercy around us.

***Do you know a tough story someone has been living lately? Care to share it? Shall we pray for that person?***

1. ***ASK* FOR HELP🡪 vs47: “…Jesus! Son of David have sympathy with me in my affliction and *help* me at once!”** I love, love, LOVE Bartimaeus’ cry for help here; “SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!!” That’s how I feel. I need all the help I can get; so, ASK for it.

***Is there an area in your life where you’ve been refusing to ask for help? Why do you think that is? Don’t you think maybe it’s time to give up trying to save yourself and just ask for help? Maybe let’s talk about that a bit here.***

1. **ASK FOR HELP WITH UNBRIDLED *PERSISTENCE*🡪 vs48: “…but he kept on crying out *all* the *more*…”** Gosh, what a challenge to us, in our pride. We need to keep on calling out! Don’t let nothing, or nobody stop you from crying out to The Master for help.

***Why do you think we tend to want to shut needy people up? Has anyone ever done that to you? Have you ever done that to anyone?***

1. **JESUS WILL *STOP* IN HIS TRACKS🡪 vs49: “…and having come to a *standstill*…”** I love that Jesus stops for Bartimaeus. Jesus’ work was clearly important (He’s on his way to Jerusalem after all) but He stops what He’s doing for Bartimaeus. I believe He will stop in His tracks for you too.

***Do you believe this? Have you ever sensed Jesus doing this for you? Maybe tell us that story here to encourage us.***

1. **MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU TRULY *NEED*🡪 vs51: “…what do you want?...Rabbi, my *sight*!”** I wonder if Jesus just wanted Bartimaeus to say it? Do you think that might be true for you?

***I know we’ve talked through this a bit already, but this is your second chance to just out and admit that thing that you truly need. And then, let’s pray into it together.***

1. **REDISCOVER YOUR *PATH*🡪 vs52: “…be going on your *way*…”** Isn’t this beautiful? As soon as He heals him, Jesus commands Bartimaeus to get back on his path. Lovely.

***What is your path? Have you strayed off it? What is the next step you need to take, now that you’ve reflected on Jesus’ healing Bartimaeus, and maybe you?***

Love y’all!

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