



**“Your servant did this to change
the present situation”**

~ 2 Samuel 14:20 ~

Three Steps to Changing Your Life Situation

Read: Mark 10:46-52

In this week’s Gospel we hear the story of a blind man named Bartimaeus. He calls out to Jesus and received his sight.

Life is not easy. Everyday we face challenges, obstacles and failure. We struggle with all kinds of emotional turmoil. We wonder what our lives amount to and question the value of our suffering. I can imagine this is what Bartimaeus felt like. Why was he blind? Why was life so cruel? Why did this happen to him? But Bartimaeus discovered that there are three steps to changing his life situation. But what are they and how can we do the same?

First, he called out to God in trust. Unless we acknowledge that we need God, the course of our lives will remain the same. Although we don’t have the power to change our own lives, only God can do that, we do have the power to place our trust in him. The Bible tells us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5) because “God’s love never fails” (Psalm 136:1). We must trust that God hears us when we call out to him and only wants what’s best for us.

Second, we need to “throw aside” those things in our life that prevent us from answering God’s call. Bartimaeus tosses his cloak aside in order to get to Jesus. This means we may have to make adjustments to our lifestyle or our situation in order to free ourselves from the things that keep us from God. “In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success” (Proverbs 3:6). It is hard to be successful when we won’t let go of things that keep us from growing in our faith.

Third, we need to get up and go to Jesus. Bartimaeus “sprang up” and ran over to Jesus. When we go to Jesus we open ourselves up to his transforming power. But our faith cannot be a flash in the pan. It needs to be sustained through prayer and fellowship. Bartimaeus “followed Jesus on the way” and so must we. Our encounter with Jesus cannot be a one-time event if we want the positive change to last. It must be a life long commitment.

We all have the ability to change our life situation. But that requires trusting God, removing the obstacles that prevent our faith from growing and following Jesus. Jesus wants to positively transform your life. “Take courage, get up, he is calling you.”

Reflection: What do you need to “toss aside” in order to change your situation?