

Life Group Notes

Sunday 14th February 2021

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Title: Jesus and the Jericho Outcasts

Passage: Luke: 18:35- 19:10

As Jesus nears Jericho, he meets two seemingly different Characters, but it soon becomes evident that they have a lot in common and Jesus calls them both. We looked at 4 ways things which united them. They were outcasts of the community – Both Bartimaeus (we know his name from the account in Matthew) and Zacchaeus are despised in their communities. We don't often want important people to see the worst of us, so we hide it away. It seems like, the people in Jericho didn't want these people to be near Jesus or didn't think they deserved an audience with Jesus. All humanity finds itself as outcasts living in a fallen world far away from Gods loving rule and reign. But God doesn't want us to stay as outcasts, so he sends Jesus to find us. Us being hidden away doesn't bring him glory so he crosses our path and sees how we respond as our characters respond...

They did something – Despite everything, Bartimaeus cries out loudly and gets Jesus attention, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus. They do something to position themselves to get Jesus' attention when they know that Jesus is near.

Jesus responds – For Bartimaeus, Jesus stops in the middle of a crowd and gets them to bring the man to him, for Zacchaeus, he seemingly changes his plans and heads back into Jericho with the despised, cheating tax collector, to stay at his house, turning down the hospitality that was likely on offer. Transformed People – When Jesus responds we are left with transformed people, hallelujah. Jesus can transform anyone from the richest to the poorest, there is hope for everyone in Jesus!

Questions:

1. What did you hear that was new, or a reminder, that caught your attention?
2. Describe when you have felt like an outcast in your life?
3. What did Scott mean when he spoke about all of us being outcasts?
4. What things can crowd us out from getting close to Jesus?
5. Think of some ways that you can put yourself in the way of Jesus when everything seems to be crowding you out.
6. Jesus sees Zacchaeus up a tree and calls him down. Spend some time recalling your stories of when Jesus 'called you down from your tree' so you could follow after him.