

He may invite you to slow down and smell the roses with him. He might call you to join him in action; seeking and saving the lost, bringing a person to your mind. Grab what he gives and then follow him down the road; keep walking and talking with him.

Have you noticed a conversation isn't one sentence? It begins with one sentence that invites a response, and leads to being open and honest with each other. Maybe that's the area of life Jesus is seeking to open your eyes to; where

you've been blind, where you're living trapped because of a fear of being open and honest.

Today shout out to Jesus; 'I want to see!'

'Jesus, I want to see!'
'Jesus, I want to see you for who you are.'

'Jesus, I want to see, living open and honest with you in Father's loving embrace.' 'Jesus, I want to see!'

As you pray Jesus will be there with a prompt, a picture, a

word, a thought. Grab it, and let the conversation flow. Let faith in Jesus heal you, taking him at his word, as you go walking and talking with him into this week. Not blind, but wonderfully seeing life through Jesus' eyes.

'Jesus, I want to see!'
'Jesus, I want to be keep putting the pieces of your love into life.' 'Jesus, I want to see!'

28 October 2018

KEEP PUTTING ...

Mark 10:46-52



Our piece of the Baptism Puzzle has this written on the back; 'it takes time; keep putting the pieces of Jesus' love into your life.' Have you ever noticed that's the nature of relationships, they take time. It doesn't all happen at once; relationships grow over time. Have you noticed that?

That's true of our relationship with God. The first reading for today was written by Jeremiah around 600BC. Other parts of God's story with us were written 1400BC. The letter of Hebrews and the story of Jesus life from Mark were written 2000 years ago. This relationship between God and humanity didn't all happen at once; it's been growing over time.

Relationships take time. Time to grow and mature. Time to get to know each other deeper, more intimately. Time to discover life together. Time to take on the adventures of life together. It takes time.

When you were baptised, the actual baptism did happen all at once. When you were baptised you were adopted as Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. In that moment as God spoke, that's what was created.

That's just like birth, it happens all at once; you're born. But in no way is that the end of the story, it's just the beginning. The beginning of living out this wonderful relationship;

discovering God, his true nature. Discovering ourselves. Discovering what life is all about as we go about living it.

So with baptism, it always is meant to be the beginning of a life shared. God comes and births this wonderful relationship of love and affection, that we get to live, to discover, to enjoy, over time.

Mark's story of Jesus' life reminds me that I can become blind to what God has intended. In Jesus, God intends to share a life of love and affection with us, growing in intimacy, growing together as we take on the adventures of life together.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

But I can become blind, I stop putting the pieces of Jesus' love into my life. Other things take over, become more important, consume my time. I become busy and Jesus ends up taking a back seat.

I don't think this makes anyone a bad person, just normal.

Isn't it funny how a pastor can get so busy that he forgets to keep putting the pieces of Jesus' love into his life? Thank Father, he doesn't forget. He's always dropping notes, prompts, reminders. And Good News, he's never too busy to stop and chat, to listen, to care.

Today we heard of a blind beggar, sitting by the road. This is a literal story, but as I read it I see myself as that blind beggar. As you read through Jesus' life story you might come to notice

he has quite a number of encounters with blind people.

I see this as a description of where we are in life when left to our own devices. I'm so blind to the reality of God's love, of who God is, let alone what he thinks of me.

It takes time; keep putting the pieces of Jesus' love into your life.

I look around at a world blind to God, groping to understand, to make sense of this world. Left to myself I'm not only blind to who God really is, I'm blind to who I am, what is my purpose, why am I alive. I'm blind to other people and so often end up treating them as things meant to meet my needs.

Blindness is one of Jesus key images of life before he bursts in.

This blind man hears that Jesus is walking by so what does he do?

He shouts; 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Did you notice in this story he's the only one who sees who Jesus is. The rest are walking and talking with Jesus but seem totally blind to who he really is.

This blind man sees Jesus as the Messiah they had been waiting for. This blind man sees Jesus as his hope, the one who has the power to set him free, to heal him. So he shouts.

And what is the response of the other people?

'Be quiet!' This guy is inconvenient; maybe they feel he's embarrassing. I wonder why they told him to be quiet. Has anyone ever told you to be quiet as you sought Jesus, sought

to understand him, be drawn to him in a more intimate personal way. Have you ever felt like there was this voice telling you to be quiet, to be realistic, to get on with life and stop this silly nonsense of expecting Jesus to speak into your life?

Blind Bartimaeus kept shouting, and Jesus did what? Blind Bartimaeus sought to keep putting the pieces of God's love into his life. And Jesus did what?

I love it when Jesus does this. He invites Bartimaeus to come to him and then asks; 'What do you want me to do for you?'

Does that ever feel like the dumbest question to ask? He's blind, what do you think he wants. But here Jesus beautifully brings forth faith. He's giving Bartimaeus the opportunity to take a

step of faith, asking the seemingly impossible. What an amazing step of faith.

Have you ever been blinded by your reason? Reason could have been telling Bartimaeus, you're insignificant, don't make a fool of yourself, you're blind, what can this person

Jesus I want to see!

do. What other responses could reason have offered to this blind man?

Bartimaeus utters what are stupid words to reason, he asks Jesus to give him sight. 'And Jesus said to him, 'Go, for your faith has healed you'. Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road." (Mark 10:52)

Do you notice what Bartimaeus does once he's healed?

That's right, he keeps putting the pieces of Jesus' love into his life as he follows him down the road. What a beautiful picture. What a beautiful invitation from Jesus to us, to you. He's come to heal our blindness and then invites us to daily walk with him, to follow him down the road.

Jesus isn't after a one off event, he's after life with you, where we both take the time to keep putting the pieces of his love into a living reality, a living relationship.

Today I invite you to shout out to Jesus, 'Messiah, brother, have mercy on me!' And hear Jesus say; 'What do you want me to do for you?' Then invite him to heal your blindness; grab what he gives you. Grab that first thought and go with it, seeking to take Jesus at his word.