

## **Title: Trust the Teacher to show us the Way**

- The concept of life as a journey is common, but the early church viewed the Christian faith specifically as "The Way," a pilgrimage toward a destination.
- The story of Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-end) emphasises the transition from being "by the way" (a passive observer) to being "on the way" (an active follower of Jesus).
- Bartimaeus begins as a blind man sitting by the roadside, spiritually and physically removed from the path of discipleship.
- Through his encounter with Jesus, Bartimaeus moves from the sidelines to becoming a committed follower, highlighting a journey of faith and decision.
- Bartimaeus' story is contrasted with two other encounters in Mark 10: the rich man and the request of James and John.
  - The rich man sought to control his journey to eternal life, wanting to achieve it on his own terms. Jesus challenged him to let go of his resources and self-reliance, but he walked away grieving.
  - James and John sought positions of power and status, showing their own spiritual blindness. They did not understand that discipleship involves service, humility, and trust in Jesus.
- Unlike them, Bartimaeus shows complete trust. He throws away his cloak, his only possession, symbolising his willingness to abandon everything and follow Jesus without conditions.
- Jesus asks the same question to Bartimaeus, James, and John: "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus' answer reveals spiritual insight—he asks to "see again," both physically and spiritually.
- Bartimaeus recognizes Jesus as the one who can give true understanding, clarity, and purpose. His request leads to both healing and discipleship.
- The sermon invites listeners to reflect on their own journey:
  - Are we passive observers on the sidelines, or are we willing to follow Jesus on the way?
  - What might we need to let go of to commit ourselves more fully to Jesus?
  - Are we willing to trust Jesus as the guide who leads us, even through the challenges and uncertainties of life?
- Ultimately, the journey of discipleship requires surrender, trust, and a willingness to follow Jesus wherever He leads, knowing that He sees the way more clearly than we ever could.

## Questions

1. What does it mean to be "on the way" versus "by the way" in the context of discipleship, as illustrated by Bartimaeus' journey? How might this distinction apply to our own spiritual lives?
2. In what ways does the story of Bartimaeus challenge the idea of being a passive observer in faith? How can we move from being spectators to active participants in our spiritual journey?
3. The rich man and Bartimaeus had very different responses to Jesus' call. What are some things we might need to "throw away" or let go of to follow Jesus more closely?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked the same question, "What do you want me to do for you?" to both Bartimaeus and James and John? What does this reveal about spiritual blindness and true sight?
5. Bartimaeus' request to "see again" was both literal and symbolic. What areas of life or faith do we need Jesus' help to see more clearly, and how can we open ourselves to His guidance?
6. Reflecting on the metaphor of life as a journey, where do you see yourself on this journey right now? What might it mean for you to trust Jesus as your guide through both "green pastures" and "the valley of the shadow of death"?