

Disciple School: Keep Going – Saul Algar – Mark 10:46-52 – 10/06/18

Introduction

Today we'll conclude the 'disciple school' series – summarise what it means to live as a disciple.

We've looked at: Who do you say I am? Will you be Jesus' disciple? Listening to Jesus, The Power of Prayer, True Greatness and Humility, Rejecting Pride, Being ruthless against sin, Having a Childlike Faith, Marriage, Living for Jesus, The Disciples Reward, Jesus' sacrifice – example and gift.

Paul described the life of a disciple as like running a race – to win the prize (an imperishable crown) and finish well. We'll look at the story of Bartimaeus; a blind man who didn't let his disability prevent him from coming to Jesus.

1. My disability doesn't hinder my ability (v46-47)

Disability: a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movement, senses or activities.

Bartimaeus – blind, unable to work and therefore a beggar

- **Maybe your 'disability' is physical, maybe mental, maybe spiritual?**
- Any of these things can make us feel 'stuck', like we aren't able to run our race well

Q. Have you ever felt like that? That your disability, whatever it might be, is hindering your race?

Jesus comes along and Bartimaeus calls, *"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* (v47)

- **Bartimaeus used what he had – ears to hear and a mouth to shout!**
- He didn't focus on his disability or his inability. His disability didn't hinder his ability to come to Jesus.

Q. Do you feel 'stuck' in your race? What can you do to keep moving forward?

2. My faith outweighs discouragement (v48)

Bartimaeus acknowledged that Jesus was Lord, by calling him 'Son of David'. He had faith in Jesus Christ.

Yet, many people try to discourage Bartimaeus and tell him to be quiet.

Q. Have you experienced discouragement when trying to do something good?

- Devil wants to discourage us, distract us, accuse us and stop us in our race.
- Yet he has no power if we ignore the lies and shouts, instead pushing on.
- We can discourage ourselves, other people can discourage us...

Yet Bartimaeus ignores the discouragers and shouts all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v48)

- A victorious Christian ignores the discouragement.
- *"Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 5:10)*

Q. What thoughts or discouragements do you need to throw off?

3. My deficiency can be surpassed by His all-sufficiency (v49-52)

Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus, that his deficiency could be surpassed by Jesus' all-sufficiency.

- He threw off his cloak and went to Jesus.

When we come to Jesus we repent, throw off our old self and run to Jesus. Our old self is crucified with Jesus.

- The enemy would have us believe otherwise.
- *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Cor 5:17)*

The first face Bartimaeus sees is the face of Jesus. We too need to focus on Jesus' face.

Q. Feeling insufficient? Unable to continue?

Jesus is sufficient for you. Our deficiency can be surpassed by his all-sufficiency.

Conclusion

Jesus was on his way to the cross, yet he stopped to listen to a blind beggar.

You are important to Jesus, He will stop for you, He will carry you.

The heart of a disciple = loving Jesus with all our heart, mind & strength.

Laying down our lives, obeying His commands, running the race.