

What Do You Want Me to Do for You?
Mark 10:35-41, 46-52

ETS: When we approach God, He asks: "What do you want me to do for you?"

ESS: How we answer God's question reveals our heart

OSS: I want people to examine the answer they would give to this question

PQ: What would you say if Jesus asked, "What Do You Want Me to Do for You?"

UW:Reveal

ME

Genie Joke

A lonely woman is walking on the beach, upset because her husband has just left her for his much younger secretary. She kicks a bottle, and a genie comes out.

"For freeing me from the bottle I'll give you three wishes, but know this: everything you wish for, your husband gets double."

The woman is shocked "That no good, lying, cheating, piece of crap?"

The genie replies "I'm sorry, that's the policy, whatever you wish for he gets double"

The woman thinks and says "I'd like a million dollars."

Where her husband is, two million appears at his feet.

Then the woman says "I'd like the world's largest diamond"

Her husband starts looking for a jeweler.

Then the woman thinks very hard and says "Whatever I wish for, he gets doubled?"

"Yes"

"OK, then, scare me half to death"

Questions people said they'd ask a Genie

1. Unlimited Wishes
2. Make someone fall madly in love with you
3. For you and your friends and family to be immortal
4. For world peace
5. Identical twin sibling
6. Perfect singing voice

7. Live in a world of fiction
8. Become the biggest celebrity ever
9. To meet the love of your life & live with them forever
10. Become the most famous person on the internet
11. No more Justin Bieber
12. No pain or damage to your body ever
13. Become the prettiest person in the universe
14. To go back in time and change past mistakes
15. Wish for eliminating the evil qualities which resides in every person on this planet
16. To bring dead actors back to life
17. Become the most famous person in the universe
18. More wishes
19. To have superpowers
20. Wishing that pollution never existed
21. Be the most popular at school
22. To help all the sick children in the world.
23. To turn you into a wizard
24. Go into the past to alter an important milestone in history for making the future a better place
25. To end animal abuse
26. For your favorite fictional characters to become real
27. One million dollars
28. Wishing that we all have the ability to breathe underwater
29. Wishing for an increase in size of the earth's radius for accomodating the increasing population
30. To end racism
31. To have a painless death

Take out a piece of paper and write your answer to the following question:

- What if God asked you the question: **What do you want me to do for you?**
 - Remember, God can give you ANYTHING you want!
 - Fame
 - Wealth
 - Health
 - Restore a life!

Write down your answer

- What if God asked you the question: **What do you want me to do for you?**

WE

Did you know that God has asked at least 5 people this question?

- God asked King Solomon in the Old Testament
- IN the NEW TESTAMENT, Jesus asked two groups of two men each that same question.

GOD

Turn to Mark 10

The road is filled with travelers who are heading to Jerusalem for the Passover

- Imagine a **crowded road** of people making the journey
 - **Vs. 46** tells us there was a **“Large Crowd”** with Jesus and His disciples
 - According to v. 32, the 12 disciples were **“Astonished”**—probably because Jesus seemed so focused on getting to Jerusalem
 - Jesus was **“in front”** of the group
 - Also, v. 32 says **“others who followed Jesus were afraid.”**
 - Afraid that a showdown was coming in Jerusalem between Jesus and the religious leaders.
 - Afraid that something was going to happen along the way.

Jesus, the 12 and other followers of Jesus are going down to Jerusalem.

- Jesus pulls His disciples aside and, for the **3rd time**, that He is going to be killed in Jerusalem

YET, the reality of what is going to happen escapes the Disciples!

- Cannot **CONCEIVE** that Jesus is going to be killed
 - They believe that Jesus will overthrow the leadership in Jerusalem and set up His kingdom

Thinking that Jesus is about to make His BIG move, two of the disciples decide to make their move...

Mark 10:35–52 (HCSB) ³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Him and said, **“Teacher, we want You to do something for us if we ask You.”**

- **INNER CIRCLE**
 - transfiguration (9:2-8)
 - Garden of Gethsemane (14:32-42)
 - Jesus has these three accompany him to the exclusion of the other disciples.
- **Demand:** **“WE want YOU to do something for us if we ask you.”**
 - Bold
 - Demanding
 - As if they **deserve** it!

HERE IS THE QUESTION!

³⁶ **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** He asked them.”

- Jesus is making Himself **available!**
- He **doesn't promise** to do it, but ask what they want done.

³⁷ They answered Him, “Allow us to sit at Your right and at Your left in Your glory.”

- They were **expecting Jesus to come** and **clear** house and finally make His move!

In that time and place, people usually reclined on couches around a **low table** to eat at banquets or feasts.

- When James and John request to sit at Jesus right and left hands in his glory, they are imagining **Jesus as a king** sitting at a table with his **chief advisors** at his **right** and **left** hands.

What do they want?

- Jesus to exalt them
 - They want to be **LEADERS** with Jesus!
 - They want to be **FAMOUS** with Jesus!
 - They want to have **POLITICAL POWER** over people
 - They want **AUTHORITY** over the people

Their request is **SELF-CENTERED**

- Jesus tells them that they don’t know what they are asking!

I want to you look at your answer that you wrote on down.

- Is your answer **self-centered**?
 - Is your answer focused on gaining **wealth, health, or honor**?
 - Is your answer focused on elevating your **status** or your **families status**?
 - Is your answer focused on what would bring you **pleasure**?

IF so, your answer was coming for the same **root/desire** as the disciple’s answer!

Mark 10:38–41 (HCSB) ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ³⁹ “We are able,” they told Him. Jesus said to them, “*You will* drink the cup I drink, and *you will* be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. ⁴⁰ But to sit at My right or left is not Mine to give; instead, it is for those it has been prepared for.” ⁴¹ When the other 10 disciples heard this, they began to be indignant with James and John.”

- The other **10 disciples** are **offended** because James and John are **contending** for places of **honor**, and James and John are trying to **steal the prize** from under their noses!
 - They had just had an argument amongst themselves as to who was the greatest in **Chapter 9**—which had come after Jesus’ **2nd revelation** that He was going to be killed.

Jesus continues to go forward to Jerusalem with the disciples and a large crowd of people on the road.

The second time Jesus asks the question: “What do you want me to do for you” happens just a short time later.

- He doesn't ask this question to a **King**—like in the Old Testament
- He doesn't ask this question to His **inner circle** of disciples!

He asks this question to the most **unlikely person**!

Mark 10:46 (HCSB) ⁴⁶ **They came to Jericho.**

- They are now about 15 mountainous miles downhill from Jerusalem
- They go into one of the world's oldest continuously occupied cities.

They probably get some **supplies** and **rest up**. "...And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road."

- Imagine the scene:
 - Large Crowd
 - Some hoping to see Jesus
 - Priests and Levites who lived in Jericho are nervous about Jesus passing through.
 - They are probably also in the crowd that is traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover.
 - They are wondering what Jesus is going to do in Jerusalem.
 - They are uneasy, afraid and nervous about Jesus
 - The crowd is noisy and jostling about on the dirt road.
 - On the side of the road, is a blind beggar
 - The only way he could survive was off of the charity of others
 - He would have his cloak out to catch the money people would toss at him.
- Although this account is recorded in Matthew and Luke, they do not give his name
 - Mark tells us that his name in **Aramaic** is Bartimaeus
 - Aramaic is the common language of the Jews in Jesus' day
 - "Bar" in Aramaic = "Son of"
 - Greek translation = "Son of Timaeus"
 - Bartimaeus = "Son of Honor" but there is no honor as a beggar

Bartimaeus is sitting on the side of the noisy road and he hears something that perks him up:

Mark 10:47 (HCSB) "When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!"

- Calling Jesus "Son of David" shows that Bartimaeus recognized Jesus as having the lineage of Messiah.

Bartimaeus begins to "Cry out"

- He has got to overcome the noisy of the crowd
- This is his ONE chance for help!
 - If Jesus passes by, Bartimaeus is stuck in his life of begging!

Bartimaeus is a **desperate** man!

Mark 10:48 (HCSB) “Many people told him to keep quiet, but he was crying out all the more, “Have mercy on me, Son of David!”

- Bartimaeus is a **desperate** man!
 - This is his ONE chance for help!
 - If Jesus passes by, Bartimaeus is stuck in his life of begging!

What is sad is that “Many people told him to keep quiet”!

- They weren’t hurting so they weren’t desperate!
 - Were they were following Jesus to be **seen**?
 - Were they were following Jesus to see what **He was going to do**?
- They were oblivious to this man’s condition.
 - They still failed to understand Jesus’ heart and desire for the hurting.

Crowd really did not “GET” who Jesus was!

- Bartimaeus got it!
 - Calling Jesus “**Son of David**” shows that Bartimaeus recognized Jesus as God’s agent, a royal figure, a man worthy of honor!
 - Although he can’t see, Bartimaeus recognizes Jesus’ identity
 - He recognizes Jesus’ **power** “Have mercy on me!”

Mark 10:49 (HCSB) ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

- Jesus **MAKES** the crowd get involved!
 - Jesus immediately elevates this blind beggar!
 - Jesus stops for a blind beggar

“...So they called the blind man and said to him, “Have courage! Get up; He’s calling for you.”

Bartimaeus’ reaction is interesting: **Mark 10:50 (HCSB)** “He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.”

- “Threw off” = (apobalon—casting aside—abandoning)

The coat of a beggar was very important

- Beggars typically sit with their **cloak spread** on the ground before them to catch coins tossed by passersby.
- This **man’s cloak** is as **important** to his **livelihood** as **boats** are to a **fisherman** or a **booth** to a **tax collector**.
- Just as others **abandoned boats** and **booths** to follow Jesus, this man **tosses aside cloak** and **coins** to stand before the Son of David.

Why does Bartimaeus “Throw off his coat?” He has expectations!

- He **expects to regain** his **sight**
- He **expects a change** in his **status**.

- His **believes** Jesus can and will **restore** his sight
- He **believes** his **circumstances** will change-no longer begging!

Here is the question: **Mark 10:51 (HCSB)** “ Then Jesus answered him, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

- Same question Jesus had earlier asked James and John!

Again, if Jesus asked you that question what would be your answer?

When Jesus asked the question of the 2 disciples—members of His inner circle—they wanted Jesus to exalt them

- They want to be **LEADERS** with Jesus!
- They want to be **FAMOUS** with Jesus!
- They want to have **POLITICAL POWER** over people
- They want **AUTHORITY** over the people

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Look at how this blind beggar—

- A man who **had not been with** Jesus for the **last 2 ½** years
- A man who had **never seen** Jesus
- A man who had only **HEARD** about Jesus...

Look at how this blind beggar—ANSWERS Jesus’ question:

Mark 10:51 (HCSB) *“Rabbouni,”* the blind man told Him, *“I want to see!”*

- *Rabbouni* = only 1 other time that word is used to address Jesus!
 - Later, on the morning of Jesus’ resurrection when Mary turns to see Jesus!
- *Rabbouni* = It is a reverent form of Rabbi.

Look at the request: *“I want to see!”*

Notice the contrast with his answer and the disciples’ answer!

Disciples: “We want to be seen”

- **Beggar:** “I want to see”

Disciples: “We want a place of honor”

- **Beggar** “I want to be ordinary, I want to be made whole”

Disciples: “We want to rule over others”

- **Beggar** “I want to be join others in life”

Bartimaeus seeks no special privileges—he just wants his eyes to be opened!

- Bartimaeus comes to Jesus wanting to see completely.
-

Mark 10:52 (HCSB) “Go your way,” Jesus told him. “Your faith has healed you.” Immediately he could see and began to follow Him on the road.

- Bartimaeus was healed not only physically but spiritually
 - HOW? By exercising faith in WHO Jesus is!
 - By exercising faith in WHAT Jesus can do!

Notice Bartimaeus’ response: “**began to follow Him on the road.**”

- Bartimaeus begins the story **alongside** (para) the **road**.
 - He ends the story as a **follower** “**On the road**”
- The shift of prepositions reflects Bartimaeus’ move from the **invisible periphery** of **society** to the **heart** of the **scene**.

At the beginning of this story, we found Bartimaeus “**sitting by the road (hodon)**” (v. 46).

- Now, at the end of the story, we find him following Jesus “**in the way**” (hodo).
 - While in verse 46 *hodon* simply meant “**road**,”
 - in **verse 52** *hodo* means “**the way**.”
 - The formerly blind man is with Jesus in the way of discipleship.

WE

How YOU answered Jesus’ question: “**What do you want Me to do for you?**” reveals what is **most important** to YOU.

What SHOULD be most important to you?

- That you would “**SEE!**”

Everything Jesus did for His disciples were designed to get them to SEE!

- They could see physically, but they were not looking at life with SPIRITUAL eyes!
 - James and John were STILL BLIND to the Mission of Christ!

What DOES JESUS WANT FOR YOU?

- He wants you to SEE!

Bartimaeus’ request was aligned with what Jesus wants to do for us!

- **Jesus wants us to see life from HIS perspective**

He wants us to see:

- **People** as **souls** who need to be **delivered** from their sins
 - NOT as **commodities** to be **used**
 - NOT as **commodities** to be **lusted** after
 - NOT as commodities to be **bought, sold** and **exploited**
- People as **souls** who need to **loved**
 - Loved because they are **created** in the **image of God**
- **Things** as **things** to be used to **accomplish** His **purpose** of expanding His kingdom
 - **Buildings** are not to be **preserved** at the **cost** of **carrying** out the **commission** of Christ
 - **Things** are not to be **fought over**: Color of carpet, etc.
- He wants us to **see** that that the **days** are evil
 - We are to be **light** in a **dark** world
- He wants us to **see Him** at **work** in our lives, in the world, in our community and in our church.
- He wants us to **SEE who** we are **IN HIM!**
 - We are **HOLY**
 - We are **BLAMELESS**
 - We are **FORGIVEN**
 - We are **REDEEMED**
 - We are **RECONCILED**
 - We are **SEALED**
 - We are **CITIZENS** of **HEAVEN**
 - We are **MEMBERS** of **GOD'S HOUSEHOLD**
 - We are **MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

OUR DESIRE: "I want to see!"

- I want to SEE the World as YOU (GOD) Sees it, so I can be....
 - **Strengthened** in my faith
 - **Powerful** in my witness
 - **Wise** in my decisions
 - **Strong** in my stance against the sin, flesh and the devil

What is Most Important to you?

- Fame: 2 Disciples
 - Worldly frame of mind
- Power: 2 Disciples
 - Worldly frame of mind
- **Ability to see**: Blind man
 - Desire to **see** Jesus
 - Desire to **walk** with Jesus
 - Desire to **BE** with Jesus!

What SHOULD be the most important to you?

Want or NEED?

Solomon = Needed

Disciples = Wanted

Blind Man = Needed/Wanted

I want to receive my sight!

- SPIRITUAL SIGHT

When we approach God, He asks: "What do you want me to do for you?"

How we answer the question reveals our heart

YOU

WE