

Transformation Journal

Daily Devotion for the week of October 25, 2009

Gail Chiew

Yesterday's message touched on the healing story of a blind man called Bartimaeus. Physically he was indeed a blind person, and he lived as a beggar on the road side. Yet, spiritually his sight were better than many people during his time, like the disciples of Jesus and the religious people. This could be seen in Bartimaeus' cries to Jesus: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" It was not son of Joseph/Mary or brother of James/John or the guy from Nazareth... but the son of David, the Messianic, the promised one! Quite clearly, the story ended with a happy ending, Bartimaeus's sight were restored and he walked along the road with Jesus.

Monday:

Scripture: **Read** Mark 10: 46-52

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. When someone asked for your help , how do you usually respond?
2. What is significant about the way Bartimaeus addresses Jesus? How does Bartimaeus show his faith? Why is there no "order of silence" here (as in 7:36)?
3. How would you measure your spiritual vision now (and how could it be corrected)?
4. If Jesus asked you, "what do you want me to do for you?" what would you say?

Prayer Focus: Spirit of truth, please open my eyes that I may see evenif there were only glimpses of truth, to illumine me. Amen.

Tuesday

The text below is about a handicap person with hearing and speaking disabilities. These are the people on the margins whom often being neglected or even disregarded by “ok” people. However from the text we once again find Jesus turning to such people. Jesus not only cross boundries, he also stands with the lost, least and the poor.

Scripture: Read Mark 7: 31--37

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. If you were to become deaf, what sound would you miss hearing most? If you were to become unable to speak, what would you miss saying?
2. How does Jesus care for the marginalized in the story? In your community?
3. How has your grasp of who Jesus is changed over the past five years?
4. What can you do this week to show friendship to someone who is marginalized? How might you be his hands and feet for them?

Prayer Focus: Lord, open the eyes of my heart, to see the needs around us more clearly. Help me to be sensitive to my surroundings and help me to hear you speaking to me.

Wednesday

Scripture: Read Isaiah 42: 1-7

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. As a kid, were you ever disciplined by having to remain in the house or in your bedroom for a period of time? How did you feel when you got out again?

2. In Isaiah's time, a king's servant stood in a position of great importance. What terms express this servant's relationship to God? His mission? His character?
3. In what ways does Jesus fulfill this picture of God's servant?
4. The image of Jesus as the servant apply to all believers. In the light of that, what does this passage say about your mission? Your family? Your work? Your priorities? Your character? How does this encourage and challenge you?

From a poster in the Mother Teresa House: "You have come to serve Christ in the crippled, the sick and the dying. We are happy and thankful that you have taken this opportunity to be a witness of God's love in action. Remember that it is Christ who works through us – we are merely instruments for service. It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into the doing."

Thursday

Scripture: Read John 8:12

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. What is your most vivid memory as a child in a dark place (cave, tunnel, power blackout)? What feelings do you associate with darkness?
2. What is Jesus really claiming in verse 12? What is the promise?
3. What does Jesus mean by "light" and "darkness"?
4. How can you be a light bearer to those you know?

Prayer Focus: For those who come to our church facilities for meetings, classes, and other activities. (eg. Pre-school children and parents, teachers; scouts; some ESL/citizenship classes' students) They may have been here regularly but hardly or even never being to any of our church gatherings. Let us approach them first by lifting their groups in our prayers.

Friday

Scripture: Read 1 John 4: 7-19

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. What personality trait or strength did you get from your father? Your mother?
2. What is the source of human love? How can God's love be expressed through humans? In our motives? Our actions?
3. How does the message that God's love drives out fear (v18) relate to the teaching that God is light (1:5)?
4. If you want to do a better job of loving others, how should you go about it? What is the way to improve (see vv. 15-16)?
5. How do you want to love sacrificially this week? At home? At work? A difficult relationship? In how you plan your time? Your budget?

Prayer focus: Remember recent losses of young lives in our community through suicides, murders and others. Pray for God's healing touch, grace and strength of the deceased loved ones .

Also for those who work quietly for the betterment of others and the love shown sacrificially to others.

Saturday and Sunday – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.