

Going Deeper in “Don’t Listen to the Haters”

Read the following a few times:

Mark 10:46-52 Matthew 20:29-34 Mark 10:46-52

Luke 11:10 Isaiah 11:1-5

Jesus asked Bartimaeus, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Do you, Bartimaeus, want to give up begging? Do you want to have to live differently, to work for a living, to have no reason to sit by the roadside all day whining at passers-by? It’s quite a challenge, and Bartimaeus rises to it impressively. He wants the new life; not only sight, but the chance to follow Jesus. Imagine seeing for the first time after many years and imagine that the first thing you saw was Jesus on his way up to Jerusalem.

Reflect on the following:

1. Bartimaeus had been blind for years, maybe for his entire life, but he decided to place his faith and trust in Jesus. What are some things you have trusted Jesus for in your life? Did you receive them as planned?
2. Bartimaeus heard Jesus was near, perhaps he even heard Jesus speaking, and he began shouting for mercy. The crowds told him to be quiet. When have haters in the crowd tried to kill your dreams? If you listened to them, what price did you pay?
3. It’s sad that we know ourselves better than everyone else, yet we crumble at the words of haters. When have you been able to focus on your inner voice and God’s calling to push past some haters? Was it hard? How did it feel to ignore their calls to be quiet?
4. The crowds tried to put Bartimaeus back in what they thought was his place. When have you been guilty of dumping water on the dreams of another because it seemed to be out of place?
5. Jesus encourages Bartimaeus to dream big. Dreaming begins by clearly defining our current reality. Why do we find it hard to admit we have problems, challenges, or hardships?
6. Who has planted a seed or two of hope in your life or taken the time to water a shoot? Who do you need to circle back and thank?
7. Have you seen videos of animals who were injured being released into the wild after recovering? Why do we find it so exciting to see them running free? When was the last time you were a dream releaser?

Respond in one of the following ways:

1. Pray about what your purpose or mission statement would be.
2. Pray for strength to push past the haters as you chase your dreams.
3. Pray about God using you to be a dream releaser.

Welcome to *Salem*

United Methodist Church



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