

WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR? - WEEK I

Scripture used: [Mark 10:46-52 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon started off our new sermon series with a simple question: what are you searching for? It turns out that one of the top searches in Google is about love. These tend to fall into several groups. What is love, really? Am I loved? Does God love me? If God really does love me, how much? These questions cut to the heart of our biggest fears. They also point the way to God's perfect, unconditional love. The story of the blind beggar Bartimaeus illustrates how our deepest desires are actually all about Jesus. We read about him sitting on the side of the road, calling out to people as they walked by. He was ignored by almost everyone, and yet had enough faith to desperately call out to Jesus and ask for healing. Each of us suffers from the same need to see and to be seen, and we all have the same opportunity as Bartimaeus to call out to Jesus. This simple act of faith led to his healing and salvation, and the same thing is true for us today. We have the chance to find what it is that we are searching for!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **We all want "love" in 3 specific ways.** No matter who we are, we are fundamentally the same. The deepest desire in our hearts is to be seen, be heard, and be valued. These three aspects of love are important when we feel like we are on top of the world, but they are critical when the world feels like it's on top of us. We need a love that will stay with us at our lowest points.
- 2) **We are blind to love.** All of us are formed in God's image and likeness. As a result, we seek a relationship with our Creator. Unfortunately, we cannot see many forms of love in this broken world. Like Bartimaeus, we are blind. We call out desperately to the world, hoping to find that unconditional source. But we are destined to fail until we turn away from the world and toward God. He is the one we must find!
- 3) **Jesus is searching for each of us.** Fortunately, God is looking for us at the same time we're looking for Him! This is how Pastor Hurmon describes Jesus walking in the village. He was waiting for someone to acknowledge and love. He was anticipating someone in need. Then, when He heard Bartimaeus calling out, Jesus thought "There he is!"
- 4) **Jesus' unconditional love begins only when we call out to Him.** Love begins with an act of faith. In [Mark 6:5-6 \(NLT\)](#), the lack of faith at Nazarene undermined the healing of the people. By contrast, the children described in [Mark 10:13-14 \(NLT\)](#) were able to be touched and blessed by Jesus because they believed in their innocence.
- 5) **Drown out discouraging voices.** When Bartimaeus first called out to Jesus, others tried to silence him. We should expect the same response. Others will try to get between us and Jesus, but we can't let them. Shout even louder!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We are all called to Jesus. For some of us, it is the first time that we are truly seeing Him. For others, we've distanced ourselves and need to see Him again.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - This week Pastor Hurmon asked the reflection question "How do I know that I am always seen, heard, and loved by God?" Consider the complexity of the blind man's story in Mark 10. Jesus ministered in a world that was full of disease, brokenness, and injustice. Jesus brought healing, forgiveness, and redemption, but the work of Jesus continues even to today through His people and His church. Like the people Jesus ministered to, the disciples also needed God's power in their own lives. As we follow Jesus, in what ways do we identify with the blind beggar? How have we experienced God's healing? In what areas do we continue to cry out to Jesus?
- 3) **DO** - Jesus loves us perfectly. He attaches no conditions or qualifications. This is the love that led Him to sacrifice His Son, as described in [John 3:16 \(NLT\)](#). Our [Be Rich To Others campaign](#) is motivated by this love. We want to serve others through prayer, giving, and loving. Next weekend is our opportunity to drop off hygiene kits, Saturday (10 AM to 2 PM) at our San Jose campus and Sunday (10 AM to 2 PM) at our Redwood City campus. See the website for all the details: www.nbccbayarea.com/berich2020