

Mid-Week Devotion



When God Says NO

Read Mark 10:35-40, 46-52 “What do you want me to do for you?”

One day two of His disciples, James and John, approached Jesus. Seeing that they wanted something from Him, He asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” They replied by asking if they could sit on His right and left after He took over in Jerusalem. They thought He was going there to take over the seat of power; however, He was really going there to die. After a lengthy dialogue, Jesus gives them His answer, no. As they continued on their journey, they passed through Jericho. There a blind man named Bartimaeus calls on Jesus who again replies, “What do you want me to do for you?” “I want to regain my sight” said the man and instantly, without further discussion, Jesus says yes and grants the man’s request! I wonder if when Jesus answered the blind man, He was looking at James and John, since earlier in the journey He had denied their request.

Has God ever told you no to something you have asked of Him? Maybe it was to do well on a test, or to get that promotion. Maybe it was for healing, and Jesus said no. God answers all our prayers with yes, no, or wait. The yes answers are easy to deal with, and even being told we must wait is tolerable. However, being told no has always been difficult. The thing to remember when God says no is all the things He has already said yes to in your life. Like when He said yes to your parents in creating you; and when He said yes to providing your last meal, or when He said yes at your baptism to be his disciple. Perspective is everything when God tells you no. James and John had been with Jesus for three years; they had seen miracle after miracle and yet they were blind to who Jesus really was; the Son of God. Had they realized who Jesus was, they would never have requested seats of power, because in reality they were already heirs to the entire kingdom! It’s all about perspective. Bartimaeus on the other hand knew exactly who Jesus was for he calls Him “son of David” and asks for mercy. Isn’t it interesting that it took a blind man to see what they could not.

So when God tells you no, remember to keep things in perspective; you too are already an heir to the kingdom of God; and I’m thinking that just perhaps, that is enough.

Pastor Ed

