

Luke 18: 31 – 43 Growth Group study

Introduction/ warm up question

When you were a child and you were hungry, who did you ask about dinner? When you wanted to learn to ride a bike, who did you ask? When you wanted dating advice, who did you ask? In any of these, did you ask your brother or sister? Why or why not? (You go to the person who you know will be able to help you.)

Pray & read the passage.

- What stands out to you from the passage, or what questions do you have?
- What does Jesus say will happen to him when he goes up to Jerusalem?
As in verses 31 – 33.
- What is striking about the way the disciples respond when Jesus says what will happen to him? Are there any indications as to why they respond as they do?
The things about Jesus were written (v31), and if they read the prophets with faith they should have understood Jesus. However, they did not understand. “Its meaning was hidden from them”, verse 34. (Speculation: Maybe they could not grasp it, from a human point of view, because of their preconceptions about what the Messiah had come to do. They could not hear Jesus’ teaching about himself and respond with faith, even though he spoke plainly.)
- What does the blind man see that others don’t seem to see?
- Why might the crowd leaders rebuke the blind man in verse 39?
They are the ones leading the crowd that followed Jesus. They are in an important place. The blind beggar, who is not in the ‘important place’ calls for Jesus’ attention (and mercy). Maybe the leaders think the blind man is not worthy of Jesus’ attention.
- In what ways does the blind man demonstrate his faith in Jesus?
He sees who he is (the Son of David). He calls for mercy. He keeps calling out, even when others rebuke him. He tells Jesus what he wants. He asks for sight, in line with Old Testament expectation of the messiah (Isaiah 42: 7 etc).
- If we don’t understand Jesus’ identity, we won’t ask for the right thing. In light of who he is, what must we ask for?
In faith to call out for mercy.
- Because of his faith, Jesus gives the blind man sight (v42). Why might Luke have included this story immediately after telling us about the meaning of Jesus’ teaching being “hidden” from the disciples (v34)?
God is the giver of sight. He can let people see, and he can hide things from them. Faith in Christ is the kind of sight we need to enter the kingdom.
- Why do the people in verses 42-43 praise God and not Jesus? Do we do the same? Why or why not?

Pray for one another and for our church.

Possible prayer:

Father in heaven, please help us to recognise who you are, why you’ve come, and how we need your mercy. Amen.