

This week's reading: Mark 10:32-12:44

### Introduction: "Present Tense Jesus"

We want to focus on Jesus in the "present tense". We all believe in "past tense Jesus" and anticipate "future tense Jesus", but it is Jesus here and now we struggle with.

He is the great "I AM" not the "I WAS".

What are the implications of the fact Jesus lives in the present tense within us?

WWJD. It is as if we have to try to guess what we should do by interpreting "past tense Jesus". Why not talk to Jesus who promised, "I will be with you always". WIJD – What Is Jesus Doing?

### What is Jesus doing around us?

I don't think any of us have any trouble seeing evil in the world. The problem is when we see the world itself as evil that is all we look for. **We've been conditioned by our culture to see the evil.**

**Illustration:** Optical illusions on screen. Tell people what you want them to see before it comes up. Hopefully they will miss the bigger picture or something else that is there.

Even though there is evil in the world and the Kingdom of this world ruled by Satan seems to be in control we need to remember God still owns everything. God is still at work in the earth, revealing Himself through his creation, answering prayer, demonstrating his mercy.

### Mark 10:46-52: a blind man, Bartimaeus

#### Seeing God At Work (vs 46-48)

- It was another normal, ordinary, mundane day for Bartimaeus. Sitting. (vs 46)
- As you step out to respond and follow God you will face resistance. People will question, challenge and make fun of you. (vs. 48) Illustration: becoming debt free

#### Acting (vs 49-52)

- 'shouting', 'throwing' and 'jumping' – a confidence and enthusiasm in Bartimaeus' response. (vs 50) We should have this to as children of God.

- Believed for the impossible. (vs 51) **Impossible does not mean the scientifically impossible, but that thing that seems so far out of reach that only God can make it happen.** Relationship that seems like it has no hope. Health issue. Child that has completely turned his back on God. Career that has hit a dead end. Depression that is so deep and dark. Life that seems to have no meaning or purpose.
- Jesus asks “What do you want me to do for you?” Faith was key. (vs 52) God won’t act in ways greater than our faith. How great is your faith? What are you believing for?

**Extraordinary moves of God being with ordinary acts of obedience.**

Story of Moses (Exodus 3)

- Setting is the far side of a desert
- Moses is tending sheep
- The sheep belong to his father-in-law
- A bush catches fire
- Moses walks over to look
- “When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” Exodus 3:4
- Moses then receives his assignment and acts.

How do we start living a life of power, a life that makes a difference?

**Today:** See Jesus during our outreach. See Him in His creation, See Him in people created in His image. Don’t focus on how messed up the creation or people have become. Instead, seek to be an agent of change.

Carriers of the presence and power of God that can bring transformation & beauty.