



JUST ANOTHER FACE IN THE CROWD

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:46–47 (NRSV)

- Distractions drown out the _____ in our midst.
- Many elements in the world can taint our experiences of God.

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45 (NRSV)

- Bartimaeus is more than his _____.
- Even in the Church, there are those whose voices go unheard because others tend to play a more dominant role.

Are there barriers in place that make it difficult for others to experience the mercy and compassion of Jesus through the Church?

BEING A PART OF THE CROWD vs. BELONGING TO COMMUNITY

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Mark 10:48 (NRSV)

- When we blend in with the **CROWD**, we often conform to the overriding culture of our surroundings.
 - The crowd is the _____.
 - We cannot meet others in their mess if we have not embraced that for ourselves.

- A crowd has a way of devaluing the _____ within it.
- Belonging to a **COMMUNITY**, you are embraced.
 - You have _____ in relation to the greater whole.
 - Discipleship should not feel like a task but a relationship.
 - The Body of Christ is the site of _____.

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Mark 10:49–50 (NRSV)

- Holy disruption invites a _____.

COMMUNITY AS A SPACE FOR HEALING

Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Mark 10:51a (NRSV)

- _____ is inherent to the Body of Christ, but sometimes we fail to acknowledge the wounds of those around us.

Are we asking Jesus' question often enough?

The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Mark 10:51b (NRSV)

- The blindness of the crowd is one that does not know what to do when faced with the brokenness of others.

Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. Mark 10:52 (NRSV)

- At the Communion table . . .
 - The sight that Jesus gives us is one that allows us to embrace the other broken person across from us and next to us.
 - It does not boil down to *whom* we see at the table, but *why* they are welcome there.

Sources consulted:

- *A Body Broken, A Body Betrayed: Race, Memory, and Eucharist in White-Dominant Churches* by Mary McClintock Fulkerson and Marcia W. Mount Shoop
- *Women's Bible Commentary*
- *Relevant* magazine