



Bartimaeus/Physical Healing

7th Confirmation Class Lesson

Supplies Needed: Notebooks; Handout; Game of Taboo (if you don't want to buy the game, you can print cards off the internet at <http://taboogame.net/>); \$20 bill that will be crumpled up and then ripped apart (if you tape it up later, you can usually get reimbursed at the bank)

EXPLAIN OPENING ACTIVITY: A game of Taboo! (the board game)

- There are two teams.
- A turn consists of one team guessing the word their teammate is reading from a card.
- The clues given by the teammate may not contain the five taboo words also written on the card.
- If the teammate does say one of the “taboo” words, the opposing team member who will be watching, will buzz them (if you don't have a buzzer, just have the opposing team member make a buzzing sound with their mouth).
- The turn ends when the timer runs out (each turn lasts for 1 minute).
- 1 point for every clue answered correctly, 1 point lost for every time the clue giver was buzzed.

DO Taboo ACTIVITY

OPENING PRAYER

REVIEW CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK: What were some things that you named? What did you name them?

REVIEW OF PAST FEW LESSONS

- There are three main groups of people surrounding Jesus: What do we call those three groups?
- The word disciple means? (Student)
- What did a disciple in Jesus’ time do? (Tried to do exactly what their Rabbi/Teacher did).
- Concepts we’ve talked about so far in class:
 - Perspective – where we stand determines what we see and what we think/believe.
 - Experience – When we experience an event, it cements or changes what we believe. Following Jesus offers many opportunities to experience the workings and presence of God.

- Abundance – When we follow Jesus, we experience the abundance of God’s life. Not always, but more than if we didn’t follow Jesus.
- Healing - last week we talked about unclean spirits as internal ailments, be it emotional, mental or spiritual wounding.
- This class we'll be talking about physical healing.

TELL to TRANSITION to scripture:

- Last week we saw how language played a part in the healing of the Gerasene man.
- This week we look at another role language plays in the physical healing of Bartimaeus (which was the story from last week’s sermon).

READ Mark 10:46-52

46 They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ 49 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.’ 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ 52 Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

ASK

- Has anyone ever told you to be quiet?
- When that has happened, have you usually listened?
- Why/Why not?
- Why do you think the “many” in verse 48 are telling Bartimaeus to be quiet?
 - What role does a blind beggar have in a society/any society?
- Why do you think Bartimaeus does not listen to the “many”?
- In the game Taboo, there are rules that say you aren’t supposed to say certain words. Are there similar rules in the environments that you live in – are there certain expectations that you say and act a certain way? What are some of those environments and expectations/rules?
- Do you think those rules make it harder to say things (use the game a reference)?

TELL

- Bartimaeus was blind AND he was a beggar.
- He was asking for Jesus’ attention, a VIP’s attention.
- People were telling Bartimaeus to be quiet because of the difference in social status between him and Jesus.
- (This is the equivalent of a homeless man calling for and getting the attention of a CEO or the US President)

- Bartimaeus did not listen or believe what these people told him.
- Instead, he believed Jesus would have mercy on him.
- So Bartimaeus cried out again for mercy.
- Jesus heard him and responded to his cry.

SNACK

DEMONSTRATION

- [Take a \$20 bill and show it to the class.]
- “Raise your hand if you would like this bill.”
- [Crumple it in your hand.]
- “Raise your hand if you would like this bill.”
- [Then throw it on the floor, step on it, and grind it into the floor.]
- “Raise your hand if you would like this bill.”
- [Pick the bill up and tear it in thirds.]
- “Raise your hand if you would like this bill.”
- “What are you willing to do to get the \$20 bill?”
- “Will you dance for it? Will you sing for it? Will you wash my car for it?”
- [Wait for their responses] then say:
- “But why! It’s all crumpled and dirty and ripped up!? Why would you want it still?” (what they’ll probably say back “because no matter what you do to it, it doesn’t lose it’s value”)

TELL/ASK

- Now suppose this 20 dollar bill is a person.
- And s/he has been stepped on, dirtied up and even torn up from time to time.
- Has s/he lost his/her value?
- Society says yes, right?
- The “many” in the story say, “yes” right?
- But Bartimaeus says no.
- And cries out.
- And Jesus agrees with Bartimaeus and says, “Your faith has made you well.”

THE GOOD NEWS

- Last week we talked about naming our problems as a part of healing
- This week we see that another part of healing is that we cry out.
- **In order to cry out, we have to believe we have worth, that we’re worth healing.**
- **God tells us that we have worth. Jesus embodies this message in today’s story.**
- But we have to receive God’s message of worth. When we name our problems to God and cry out to God for help, that opens us to better receive God’s healing for us and for those who are around us.

CHALLENGE of the WEEK

Put a name to some of your problems and then tell/pray those problems to God, asking for help and guidance.

CLOSING PRAYER