

Jesus is Asking

“What do you want Me to do for you?”
(Luke 18:41)

I woke up on Wednesday sensing the Lord had something specific to say for today’s message. Yesterday’s message was about Jesus calling, and today’s message takes us a step deeper. On Wednesday, He led me to the eighteenth chapter of Luke and then brought this childhood memory back to me.

When I was growing up, we would play a lot of outdoor, physically demanding games (hockey, basketball, baseball, wrestling, etc). Give us a empty lot and we’d go for hours! Sometimes we would arm wrestle or just wrestle around (I grew up with a lot of boys.) At times I would get so physically overwhelmed by the situation that I would find myself yelling, “Uncle! Uncle!!” That was the signal that I had enough and it was time for relief.

According to Wikipedia, the exclamation "Uncle!" is an indication of submission – analogous to "I give up" – or it may be a cry for mercy. Hence today’s message, “Have mercy on me.” This message is about a cry for mercy concerning a certain situation.

Have you been in a long season of unfamiliarity? Are you in a place you’ve never been before? Have you repeatedly been praying about a situation? Are you tired? Then today’s message is for you. Chapter eighteen of Luke starts out with the persistent widow and ends with the blind man receiving his sight after years of being blind.

The blind man is sitting by the road begging when he hears a crowd coming by. He quickly learns that Jesus is passing by and continuously cries out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Luke 18:38). This is not a helpless, weak cry for help. It is bold, loud, persistent, insistent and completely motivated by faith. He knew he had a window of opportunity and he wasn’t letting it pass by.

Side note: Whenever you trust in God, you will encounter hindrances just like this blind man when the crowd sternly told him to shut up (18:39).

His persistence paid off just like the widow's. And your persistence in prayer will yield a return. Today is your window of opportunity. Jesus is in your vicinity. Don’t give up! When you cry out for mercy to Him you gain His attention.

There are opportune spiritual moments when our faith rises in Him. Look what happened when the blind man’s faith rose and he cried out for mercy in his situation- - “Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him” (Luke 18:40).

Friends, Jesus stood still!!! Are you getting this? Jesus stood still, listened and immediately responded. Are you seeing this? Bold, persistent faith in action gained heaven’s attention. He kept shouting. He didn’t care. He shouted until he heard that Jesus was calling for him.

I love what happened! The more they told him to be quiet, the louder he shouted. The enemy has been trying to get you to shut up! He’s been working to hold you down. Just like the blind man wasn’t about to sit there passively anymore, neither will you.

His bold, persistent faith achieved what he was after. He was like the widow in the parable at the start of this chapter (18:1-8). Like the blind man she kept hounding the judge until he gave her what she requested. When you persist in faith in spite of the hindrances He moves on your behalf.

Friends, the blind beggar not only gained Jesus' attention by his continuous cries for mercy, but Jesus commanded him to come near and then asked "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus never asked a dumb question in his whole life. He wanted to hear the confession of what the blind man believed in his heart. Jesus wanted to activate his faith regarding what he wanted from Jesus.

Today is your day. Today, your cries have gained His attention. You are being commanded to "come near" and He is asking you, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Father, sometimes I have given up too easily. The mountain has been too steep and I have been too discouraged. I've just made excuses for myself. Forgive me for my unbelief. Renew my faith with the unstoppable faith. Let me be quick to praise God and to follow you in the Way. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Dr. Gina Cobb
June 2016

