

Hard Questions: How should I respond to needy people?

Philippians 3:7-12; Luke 18:35-43

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June 27, 2021



1. God knew Paul had to see himself in this completely helpless condition to see himself for who he really was, just another sinner in need of a Savior. (Acts 9:8)
2. It's a rarity to be able to visualize ourselves as we really are before God & it's a remarkable person who can get an accurate view of their need.
3. The blind man, Bartimaeus, is completely helpless and begging on the streets when he hears the crowd. (Luke 18:25-43)
4. When the blind man learns that Jesus of Nazareth is walking by, he shouts out to Him, calling him "Son of David".
5. To call someone "Son of David" is equivalent to "Messiah" to the Jewish people. (Isaiah 61:1)
6. Some people are subdued by their own struggles, it's possible to just give up. However, with Bartimaeus, he is motivated by an understanding and confidence in the One who stood before him.
7. Jesus addressed him as a person, not someone to be disregarded or walked past, by asking him what he would like Jesus to do for him. In return, Bartimaeus was very direct. (Luke 18:40-41)
8. Jesus takes hold of us in order to advance the Kingdom on earth. (Matthew 20:34, Philippians 3:12, Luke 18:43)
9. Recognize that each person is made in the image of God and they have dignity & eternal worth.
 - Accept that outside of relationship, there is little I can do effectively.
 - A bottle of water or trail mix is better than cash.
 - Traffic lights are really challenging.
 - Don't give money to people using their kids as props
 - What is the most loving action I can take?
10. Apart from Jesus we find we are all desperate and in great need. Thankfully, God is the helper of the helpless. (Romans 5:8)

HEBREW & GREEK WORDS

Brokenhearted - **Sabar**, *saw-bar'*; to *expect* (with hope and patience) :- hope, to *burst*

Krazo; communicate in a loud voice, call out: -cry, 'like a wild animal trapped'

Haptomai (*hap'-tom-ah-ee;*) to *attach* oneself to; a primary verb- to *fasten* to

SONG TITLES

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