



Heartbeats along the way: The Seeking and Called Heart

Mark 10:49: 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."

This is the story of Bartimaeus, a blind beggar living in Jericho, who insisted that Jesus show him mercy. He is surrounded by a religious crowd that doesn't want this beggar scum to interrupt their moments of adulation. But that doesn't stop or silence him.

Bartimaeus will not be quiet, especially when there's a chance that Jesus would cure his blindness. He thought, "Jesus cured others, so why not me?" The crowd wanted to show piety and respect, not have their moment with Jesus spoiled by a noisy beggar.

It's a miracle in itself how the crowd who is all over this guy one moment is turned around when they hear Jesus say, "Call him here!" You may read the rest of this story for yourself in Mark 10:46-52. I imagine a school of fish moving in one direction and suddenly reversing.

We have a long tradition stretching back through our three root churches of seeking and serving the blind Bartimaeus within and outside our fellowship. Let it never be said that Carlisle UMC was too busy with appearance and deportment to hear the cries of a hurting world! Let us never become a club of sanctimonious Jesus followers.

Let's pledge to continue to grow this ministry of service to the physically and spiritually blind at our Spring Garden Campus, to be better witnesses than the pious followers of Jesus in Jericho.

"Dearest Friend Jesus, we want to adore you with the finest of our lives. Please keep us from emphasizing our piety over the call to servanthood. Teach us how to leave things at the altar and take care of someone's deep need. Don't let us be ashamed to do this act of service over an act of piety. In Your Holy Name, Amen."

~cl reynolds