



## WHAT DO I REALLY WANT?

During the Thanksgiving season, advertisers begin intentionally and specifically advertising items for Christmas. Advertisers will strategically identify items for children, wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, grandparents, etc. You name it, they have a very strategic plan to attract that audience to their products.

One of the primary targets during the Christmas season is children. Advertisers understand that if they can get their toys into the hearts and minds of the children, it is a good chance that the children will convince their parents and grandparents to have those toys for them under the Christmas Tree. Therefore, children begin to express their desire for every toy they see. Some of us may remember hearing yell out after viewing each commercial, "I want that!" Often, they cannot tell you what "that" is, what "that" does and the benefit of having "that" in their possession, nevertheless, they want "that"

As parents and grandparents discourage and dissuade their children and grandchildren from wanting everything that they see, their wish list grows smaller and smaller until it reflects the couple of toys that they really want. Parents and grandparents now know what to buy because the wish list reflects the things they persistently asked for.

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, he called out to Him for mercy. As he was calling out for mercy, many in the crowd yelled at him to be quiet. Had Bartimaeus not really wanted mercy from Jesus, I have no doubt that he would have quieted down, and let Jesus continue on His way. However, because he really wanted to be in the presence of Jesus, he called out to Jesus even more loudly for mercy. The more they rebuked him to be quiet, the louder he called out to Jesus. Because of his persistent faith to keep trying, Jesus stopped what He was doing, and called for him. When Jesus asked, "What do you want Me to do for you?" he knew exactly what he wanted, and by faith, he received his sight.

Do you know what you want from Jesus, and do you want it? Of course, the easy answer is yes. However, do you really know what you want from Jesus, and do you really want it? Our persistent faith to keep trying will get Jesus' attention, and we can expect that Jesus will stop what He is doing and call for us. When it is clear to Jesus that we know what we really want, and really want it, by faith, we will receive it.

For the month of December, our Sermon Series will ask the question: **IN IT TO WIN OR IN IT TO NOT LOSE?** Some may suggest that there is no difference between the two. However, there is a major difference between the two statements and how those statements are applied to the fulfillment of our ministries.

I have discovered that the difficulty for those who are in it to not lose is more than a lack of commitment to the Kingdom of God and a willingness to sacrifice for the Kingdom of God. It is also, and for some it is predominately, fear. Paul shared in 2 Corinthians 7:5b, ...*Outside were conflicts, inside were fears*. I have come to understand that the crippling effects of fear has more to do with what is happening on the inside than what is happening on the outside.

Internal fear manifests itself in three primary ways:

- The Fear of Trying
- The Fear of Failing
- The Fear of Succeeding

We will examine each of these fears through the lives of Biblical characters who came to Jesus with a desire to win over a desire to not lose. As they saw the Kingdom of God **forcefully advancing** through the ministry of Jesus, they sought to **forcefully taking hold of the kingdom to make it their own**.

On today, as you start to overcome the crippling effects of the Fear of Trying, may you also establish and/or reinforce a desire to win over a desire to not lose.

As you see the Kingdom of God **forcefully advancing** into Milwaukee, may you come to Jesus, and go out to fulfill your ministry calling for Jesus, **forcefully taking hold of the kingdom to make it our own**.

## WORK FOR THE WEEK

### DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **James 1:22**

### DECEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

“Just being there is not enough”

Dr. Larry Murphy

### TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

What keeps me from trying? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When I remain persistent in my faith to keep trying, Jesus will stop what He is doing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### FOR THE YOUTH

How do you feel when you win? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel when you lose? \_\_\_\_\_

Out of all of the things that Jesus is doing, He will stop what He is doing for me \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_