

## INTRODUCTION

Christ's most important work on earth was achieved in his death and resurrection so that we could have new life. While He was on earth, however, He showed compassion as he physically healed countless people – Peter's mother-in-law, a Roman officer's servant, a man with a paralyzed hand, Jairus' daughter, lepers, a paralyzed man, people suffering from demon possession, and blind people. Luke 4:40 states, "*All who had friends who were sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus; He placed His hands on every one of them and healed them all.*" At the end of Luke 18 is the story of the blind man being healed; at the beginning of the chapter, it says that "*Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*" What ties the parable of the widow with the healing of the blind man is persistence.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 18:35-43 and Mark 10:46-52. What do you think life was like for the blind man (Bartimaeus)?
2. What does Bartimaeus call Jesus? What is the significance of this name?
3. Why does Jesus ask "What do you want Me to do for you"? Wasn't the answer obvious?
4. What is Bartimaeus' response to being healed? Have you experienced this kind of excitement toward Jesus? What would it be like to praise Jesus in such a way that others are encouraged to follow and praise Him also?
5. When Bartimaeus shouted, the crowd tried to quiet him. Why do you think he continued to shout? Is there something you've been asking God for and you don't see an answer? Are you tempted to give up?
6. Read Luke 11:5-10 and Luke 18:1-8. Do you consider yourself a persistent prayer? What is one thing you could do to increase your persistence in prayer?

## **APPLICATION**

What is one thing that you've been asking God for? Spend time every day for the coming week praying for that specific request.

## **SCRIPTURE**

*As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to Him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.*

Luke 18:35-43 (NIV)