

JULY 14, 2021

# AGAPE FROM AFAR

*Adjusting to life amidst Coronavirus*

## A WORD FROM PASTOR JILL

As a way to remain connected during this time apart, I will be putting together a weekly newsletter with a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday scripture passage. I hope that by taking a few moments to reflect on the Word of God and pray, we can feel grounded and connected to God and to one another during this uncertain time. *-Pastor Jill*



The passage for this Sunday is from Mark 10:46-52. In this passage, a blind beggar named, Bartimaeus, calls out to Jesus as he is walking through the crowd. The crowd tries to tell Bartimaeus to be quiet, but he cries out even louder. Jesus hears Bartimaeus and asks him what he needs. Bartimaeus tells Jesus that he wants to be able to see again. Jesus has compassion on him and heals him saying, "Your faith has made you well."

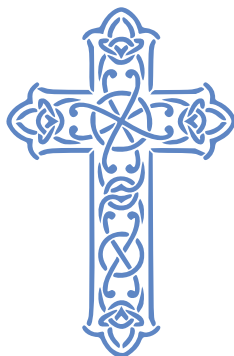
Reflect more on this passage on the following pages.



### **Read the passage:**

#### **Mark 10:46-52**

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 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.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.





**Reflect:**

1. The crowd seems to be embarrassed that Bartimaeus is loudly calling to Jesus. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where "the crowd" was trying to silence you or someone you love? How did that experience affect you?
2. Instead of assuming what the man wanted, Jesus asked the man what he wanted. When do we jump to conclusions about what people want/need before getting their input first?
3. Jesus asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" If Jesus asked you this question, how would you answer it?
4. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

**Pray:**

Thank you, O God, for hearing our cries above the noise of the crowd. Give us the courage to speak up and ask for what we need. Remind us to ask others what they need before we jump in to help. Amen.