

DISCUSSION GUIDE

What to do With Your Problems

The Gospel of Mark - Week 51

ICEBREAKER: If you had an unlimited shopping spree at only one store, which one would you choose? Why?

OVERVIEW: In your life you will have problems. And it doesn't matter how godly you are; problems are a fact of life. Even Jesus had problems, and He was the perfect Son of God. So what do we do with our problems? We take a lesson from Blind Bartimaeus and **turn our problem into a prayer request**. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to pray with greater effectiveness.

1. **Read Mark 10:46-52.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Matthew 6:5-6.
 - a. What is a hypocrite, and who do you think Jesus was referring to (Hint: See Matthew 23)?
 - b. Why doesn't God want us to be hypocrites?
 - c. What is the big idea in these two verses?
 - d. Is it wrong to let others see you pray, or to pray in public? Explain.
3. Read Matthew 6:7-8.
 - a. What kind of praying is Jesus condemning in these verses?
 - b. If God already knows what we need, then why ask?

4. Read Philippians 4:6. Why is specificity important in prayer?
5. Tell about a time when God answered your prayers.
6. Tell about a time when you were glad that God did not give you what you asked for.
7. In the sermon Pastor Andy recommended 4 skill for effective prayer: Schedule your prayers; Organize your prayers; Balance your prayers; and Write your prayers. Describe your personal prayer time, and tell about some of the lessons and skills that you have learned over time.
8. How do you need to grow in prayer?

The Last Word: "For the eyes of Yahweh roam throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His." 2 Chronicles 16:9