



NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK

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ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *August 14-19, 2023*

These devotionals have been lightly adapted from when they were originally used with the "In-Between Time" sermon series in August-September 2018.

INTRODUCTION

Our devotionals for this week were originally used in conjunction with a series about dealing with the feelings involved with being in situations where there's nothing that can be done called *In-Between Time*. Pastor Eric preached this series in 2018. As we consider Pastor Evelyn's message about the feelings connected with being "on the sidelines," we pray these devotionals will help you to consider what the experience of Bartimaeus as recorded in Mark's Gospel shows about our experiences and faith.

Monday: Genesis 16:1-6

God had promised Abram and Sarai that their descendants would become a great nation that would bless the entire world. Since they had no children this seemed like a strange promise. After waiting for many years for God to fulfill the promise they took matters into their own hands and Abram conceived a child with Sarai's maidservant Hagar. This created many problems. Do you tend to be patient or impatient? How does that tendency affect your relationships and the way you deal with your circumstances?

Tuesday: Genesis 37:1-11

The story of Joseph and his brothers is a great example of how jealousy can cause disastrous consequences in our relationships. Why is it so tempting for people in the midst of difficult circumstances to compare their lives to others' lives? What are some of the downsides of making those comparisons?

Wednesday: John 9:1-3

Jesus' disciples were focused on the man's problem. Have you ever treated a person like a problem to be solved?

Thursday: Job 3:11-26

After Job lost his children, his wealth and his health he begins to ask "why" questions. Talk about a time when you've asked, "Why is this happening to me?" What did you do to manage the circumstances that caused you to ask that question? What was the result?

Friday: Mark 6:30-52

After Jesus fed 5,000 with two loaves and five fish, they apparently did not see it as a miracle. In Mark 6:52 describes it in the following way: "for they did not understand about the loaves." It's been said, "when you focus on what's wrong, you lose sight of what God makes right." Respond to that statement. Based on your own experiences, does it seem true? Why or why not?

MOVING FORWARD

When you focus on what's wrong, you lose sight of what God makes right. There's something important you have to keep in mind: your idea of making something right may not be God's idea of making something right. When you realize and accept this truth, it changes everything.