

**THE BIG IDEA: Faith in Jesus will turn desperation into dedication.**The Take-Off

As we're heading toward the end of our ALL IN series, let's play a little word association.

I'm going to say a word, and everyone shout out the first word that comes to your mind.

Ready?

“DESPERATION”

There are all kinds of things that can make us feel desperate, right?

Not being prepared for a job interview

Blue lights coming on behind you

Having money left in your account after paying the bills only to find one bill you missed

The ATM saying insufficient funds (worst vacation ever!)

Desperation can cause people to do all kinds of things they never thought they'd do

I mean, we've all heard the phrase “desperate times call for ...”

We're going to meet a desperate man in our passage today, and my prayer is that all of us will learn to do with our desperation what he did with his

Let's read about it in [Luke 18:35-43](#)

**1. Desperation fuels the search**

- a. This blind man was an outcast and forced to beg for whatever he could get
- b. He was desperate for something, and what I want us to see first is that **desperation fuels the search**
- c. All of us are desperate for things, and whatever goes in your blank will determine what motors your tank
- d. Desperate for money? You'll make unwise decision to get more.
- e. Desperate for fame? You'll do anything to get discovered.
- f. Desperate for love? You'll settle for a warm body instead of a red-hot soul.
- g. This blind man was desperate for mercy (meant help/pity) and that drove him to where we find him
- h. At The Gathering, we welcome desperate people, because if we can't love desperate people, we've forgotten how desperate we once were
  - Jonathan in Crossfire
  - the man who wanted to play the saw in worship
  - a pastor telling about his head usher cussing out a first time guest
  - desperate people don't know how to act and don't care about protocol
  - they just want something and don't think about how awkward they may make others feel going for it
- i. This man cried out for Jesus and got louder as others got embarrassed
- j. But look how quieted him - THE DISCIPLES! What???
- k. The people leading the Jesus parade told the man to calm down.
- l. But why was this man refusing to back down?
- m. Because he knew that there was something different about Jesus - someone was here who could give him more than empty handouts
- n. Maybe that's you - you know that desperation for the wrong things leads to frustration
- o. The good news is that the Messiah is in the house - call out to Him no matter how awkward it may make others (or you) feel, because while desperation may fuel the search...

**2. Jesus fulfills the search**

- a. Only **Jesus fulfills the search**
- b. This blind beggar had spent the bulk of his life desperately seeking mercy, and so he was an expert in where NOT to find lasting hope
- c. We all know those people who have searched and found what was in that blank only to later be just as desperate as they were before
- d. That's because nothing can satisfy us until Jesus has
  - [Psalm 37:4](#) / Delight in the Lord and he will give you your heart's desires
  - [Psalm 17:15](#) / When I am awake, I will see you face to face and be satisfied.
  - [John 4:14](#) / Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again

- e. Jesus is what must fill the blank
- f. Desperation may fuel the search, but Jesus fulfills it
- g. He is what our hearts long for, and when we realize that, we'll find ourselves telling Him what we've been desperate for all along
- h. For this man, it wasn't really pity or money - he wanted to see
- i. Jesus said that his faith healed him
- j. Let's unpack that: it was him putting his faith in the right object that healed him
- k. This man was all in on faith, but not just faith in faith - faith in Jesus
- l. Some of you are like this man - your life to this point could best be described as stumbling in the dark with no vision and no purpose
- m. You're a beggar trying to get by, but Jesus is here and the question is - do you want to see or are you content to beg others for less than what Jesus can give you now?
- n. If Jesus was asking YOU the question, what would your answer be? Would you even have one, or would you be like those people who stand in line at Chipotle and still don't know what they want when it's time to order?
- o. This man knew what he wanted - he wanted to see - and I believe he wanted to see Jesus because Jesus was going to fulfill his search

#### The Landing

And did He!!

Many church historians believe that the man in our story is Bartimaeus from Mark 10 and most record that he followed

Jesus and testified about Jesus from this day until the day he died

He went all in on faith in Jesus, a blind man found vision for his life and never looked back.

Faith in Jesus can do that - it can change our destinies and our direction

In fact, **faith in Jesus will turn desperation into dedication**

It did for Bartimaeus and it will for you.

Let's pray.