



Lesson 3

September 19, 2021

Celebrating Expectantly

Mark 10:46-52

In today's Bible lesson, Bartimaeus' boldness and faith in Jesus gave him the courage to ask for and receive his sight from Jesus. How can we respond in ways that are encouraging for ourselves and others? In today's contemporary scenario, Donald was faced with a life challenge. Margaret realized that some people respond to life challenges anxiously, while others celebrate God in expectation of the blessing.

After Donald celebrated his twenty-fourth anniversary at his job, he suddenly received some disturbing—his company was unable to recover from the 2020 pandemic, therefore, they were closing their doors. Donald and others were only notified a week before the closure. Many of the employees were upset. Margaret, one of Donald's coworker and friend stopped by his house upon learning that the company was closing. Donald had been instrumental in Margaret's getting the job and finding Jesus. Margaret was very surprised at how calmly he was handling the situation.

Donald told Margaret that challenges in life test resilience. He commented that in the few years he had known Margaret, he had faced many trials. He and his wife faced numerous challenges in raising three teenage children and financial challenges when his wife voluntarily quit her job to care for their aging parents. Donald told Margaret that he celebrates expectantly and encouraged her to expect and anticipate challenges and celebrate expectantly! Margaret asked Donald if God is able to see what she is going through, with so many people calling on Him? Donald encouraged her to trust God, having confidence that He has the power to help her. Three weeks later, Margaret told Donald that she was looking for employment, and rejoicing "expectantly." She had been reflecting on her life and realized how far God has brought her. Donald encouraged Margaret to continue celebrating, expecting, and anticipating Jesus to stop by and work everything out for her!

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss what it means to celebrate expectantly, anticipating God's intervention and deliverance.
2. Have you ever felt like Margaret and wondered if God sees you in your time of need? Discuss.
3. What are practical ways that Christians can increase their trust and faith in Jesus?