

Availability

Jesus walked the earth with a kind of availability that we rarely witness in our busy, preoccupied times. Over and over again, throughout the Gospels, he dignifies the needy instead of dismissing them, showing them to be worthy of loving attention. For Jesus, voices like those of these two blind men were loud, but unlike the crowd, they were not easily ignored. The question for all of us from a story like today's is: will we treat those in need along our paths with indifference like the crowd, or with compassion like Jesus?

Read Matthew 20v29-34

Discuss the Scripture

- 01 What stands out to you from this story?
- 02 Who do you most identify with in this story — the blind men, the crowd, or Jesus — and why?
- 03 What do you think deforms compassion for others in our world today? How can we guard against this?
- 04 What needs around you seem to be shouting “all the louder” in your heart and mind since starting this Practice?

Discuss the practice

- 01 What kinds of expectations and hopes did you have going into this week’s unplanned act of service?
- 02 Would you consider yourself more planned or spontaneous? How did that influence your engagement with the exercise?
- 03 In what ways did this exercise increase your awareness of God’s activity in everyday moments?
- 01 What steps might you take to cultivate a more open posture toward interruptions beyond this exercise?

Repeat the Exercise

For this week, we invite you to repeat the exercise on page 67, or to try the reach exercise there if you have not already.