

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of October 14th – 20th

Getting Started

1. Take some time on the front end of your study together to think of as many Bible passages as you can that speak to the issue of the responsibility of God's people to care for the poor and needy.

Digging Deeper

2. What do you typically do when someone in need on the street reaches out to you for assistance (whether financial or otherwise)? Do you ignore them? Speak with them? Offer assistance of some kind? Seek to have a spiritual conversation, pointing them to Jesus? Explain.

Open Your Bible to Luke 18:35-43...

3. The passage in Luke 18:35-43 has parallel accounts in Mark 10:46-52 and Matthew 20:29-34. Read through all three passages. Do you see any differences in details? If so, what do you observe? How do we reconcile these differences?

4. In article 2 of the EFCA statement of faith, we confess that “We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings...”. Do the differences we've noted in Matthew, Mark, and Luke's presentation of this account threaten our belief in the inerrancy of Scripture in any way? Why or why not?

5. Compare how the crowd and the blind man refer to Jesus. (vv. 37-38). What title does the crowd use and what title does the blind man use? Take a look at Nathan's prophecy to King David in 2 Samuel 7:12-17. What did the blind man evidently believe about Jesus? Do you believe this about Jesus? Why?

6. Why does the crowd rebuke the blind man? The text doesn't tell us specifically, but what do you suppose is the reason for their rebuke?

7. What Jesus asks in Luke 18:41 is unique. What was the purpose for Jesus' question? If Jesus specifically asked you this question, how would you respond? What sorts of things are on your

prayer list right now? Do they match what you would be inclined to ask Jesus were he physically present with you right now?

8. In verse 42, Jesus says: "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well". In the original, the verb "made you well" is "saved" - as in "your faith has *saved* you". Compare this verse with Luke 17:19 and Luke 7:50 where the same verb ("saved") is used.

Jesus clearly opened the eyes of his head. Based on the language of verse 42, do you think the eyes of his heart may have been opened as well? How does verse 43 contribute to this discussion?