



"Cloaks and Questions When God Seems Silent"

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"Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. 'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus asked him. The blind man said, 'Rabbi, I want to see.'" ~Mark 10:50-51

I hate asking for help.

So naturally, I believe that is one of many reasons God gave me three crazy, messy, active yet wonderfully lovable boys. I just have no choice. My children have a way of exposing my deep need for a village but even more my deep need for God to help me navigate them through life.

On any given day, I find myself asking for all kinds of things like wisdom, patience, grace or even direction and purpose. Yet I am often bewildered by God's seemingly "non-answer" answer. Crickets. Nothing.

Like Bartimaeus sitting alongside the road begging Jesus for mercy in Mark chapter 10, there are times in my life I find myself begging for the touch of Jesus. As I sit, I am met with well-meaning encouragements to "Wait on the Lord," and "Trust in His timing." In most cases, the wisdom of such counsel would suffice. Yet there are times when it feels like the wisdom I seek or the peace I desire is right in front of me yet just out of reach.

Enter Bartimaeus' cloak.

This small gem of a passage describes Jesus walking by a blind man, Bartimaeus. In response to his pleas for mercy, Jesus calls Bartimaeus over. Scripture says, "**Throwing his cloak aside**, Bartimaeus jumped to his feet and came to Jesus." When he approached, Jesus asked him a question, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted. Without hesitation he said, "Rabbi, I want to see," and Jesus restored his sight. But he never would have received the blessing of sight if he hadn't first dropped his cloak and run to Jesus.

What's the big deal about a cloak you ask?

In first century Palestine, blind men were considered cursed by God. Even their families would throw them out in the streets. Bartimaeus' only protection from the elements was his cloak. It was his security. Yet, he dropped it to run after the one he knew could give him much more.

Our heavenly Father, full of deep, unimaginable love for us, loves it when we depend on him for things. He smiles when we boldly approach his throne with confidence and ask him for what we need.

But what if there is some cloak, some thing, that we need to drop in order to receive?

Do we sit on the side of the road blind, because we are scared to drop our comfort, self-protection, or control in order to receive the blessing that God so desperately wants to give?

As I found myself in a tough season of unknowns and uncertainty with my children, I was begging the Lord for direction. I was growing frustrated, and I lacked peace until I realized-I just needed to drop my cloak of fear in order to run and receive the blessing that waited for me in the unknown.

What about you?

In order to receive wisdom, do you need to throw your self-reliance aside? In order to know God's will, do you need to put down your own? If you want reconciliation do you need to throw off your pride? If you pray for your children to know a loving God, do you need to throw aside your anger and harsh rebukes?

We often know what we want: we all want to see. but first, we need to drop our cloaks.