

“WHAT DO YOU WANT?”

- If Jesus were to ask you, “What do you want me to do for you?” what would you ask him for?

Jesus asked that of a blind man called Bartimaeus:

As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me! “Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”

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.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:46-52

- Do you think it’s possible for Jesus to cure you? ...to heal you? What’s the difference?

In his article, *HEAL YOUR LIFE OR CURE IT*, Wil Langford wrote:

“To me, healing means reaching a point of wholeness and peace, no matter what the physical condition or situation may be. I believe it is possible to have a terminal illness, but to be healed though the illness eventually takes the life. On the other hand, to be cured means that the illness goes away or is “fixed.”

“While curing comes from an outside source, such as a wonder drug, healing always comes from the same source, from within. When a loved one is sick or dying, first we want a cure, so that we do not lose that one, but ultimately,

we realize that death is inevitable and what we really all need in the end is healing. From a place of wholeness we can face all of life's challenges.”

I believe that God can heal us even though He may not take away our mental health condition. We need to open our hearts and bring the pain before Him in faith and let Him touch it and heal it. We can come to terms and find peace in Him.

And what do we do while we wait for healing? God can use us as we are, right now. We don't have to wait. When we work for Him, serving others, healing will follow. Perhaps what we need to ask God for is strength to serve Him – for His love to share with others.

In February of 2010 I wrote a blogpost on this topic. Here's what I had to say back then:

Would I ask Jesus for a cure or for healing?

Myself? I don't think I'd ask Jesus for a cure. Who I've become and the purpose I have found for my life is too much tied to my mental health condition. If I didn't have bipolar disorder God would not have given me the work I do. And I like the work I do. It's challenging. It's rewarding. Helping other people and trying to erase the stigma attached to mental illness is what my struggles have prepared me for.

I don't want a cure. But I do want healing. I want the peace of knowing that God is there for me in my struggles - especially my struggles with depression. I pray for strength and the ability to accept and deal with whatever difficulties might come along.

Isn't healing far better than a cure? When God heals us we become whole people. A cure isn't necessarily going to do that for us.