

Series: The Compelling Resistance

Scripture and Background Information for July 31-August 6.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series called "The Compelling Resistance." During this series, we will go through passages that are applicable to contemporary issues that affect relationships, politics, and other important aspects of our lives and society. This week we will be focusing on Luke 18:35-43 which provides us with an example from Jesus' life that teaches us how to hold fast to our convictions about the dignity and value of every human life by responding to others, especially those who are vulnerable, in a compassionate way.

Background for Luke 18:35-43:

Luke is a gospel account that is noticeably concerned with the struggle and suffering of those in society who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. Throughout this book, Jesus interacts with people who were seen as outcasts in society, heals people who are incredibly sick, and focuses many of his teaching moments around God's care for those who are marginalized for various reasons. In all of these instances Jesus is clear that he upholds the dignity of those who have been neglected by society and is willing to challenge the people who add to or perpetuate their struggles.

In chapter 18 this theme continues. Jesus teaches a parable that exalts a tax collector because of his humility, even though he would have been hated by his peers (Luke 18:9-14). He demonstrates the great value of young children to a society that would merely see them as an inconvenience until they were old enough to work (Luke 18:15-17), and even commands a rich young man to give his possessions to the poor in order for that man to follow him (Luke 18:18-27). Each of these examples shows the immense dignity that Jesus places on every single life and our passage today shows that Jesus is willing to live in accordance with his conviction that every human that exists, without exception, holds infinite value in the eyes of God.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. In verses 35-39, what stands out about the actions of the blind man? What stands out about the response of the crowd?
2. In verses 40-43, what is significant about Jesus' initial response to the blind man? How does this contrast with the crowd's actions?
3. What can we learn from the way Jesus engaged with the blind man? What are some ways that we can follow Jesus' example and act upon our great conviction that every human is worthy of infinite dignity?

Note: In this passage Jesus provides us with an incredible example of how to engage compassionately with someone who is suffering and neglected. The blind man is a societal outcast that would have been mistreated and bound to begging for his entire life. But Jesus shows his love for the blind man by caring for him in a way that upheld his dignity, and this ultimately changed the life of the blind man forever.