



**“Grace Against the Grain”**

*Take Back Your Life* series, 1.28.24

Pastor Jason Strickling

Taking back your life is more about leaning into God’s **grace** than your **grit**.

God’s Big Idea: **Rewarding faith** is usually **risky**.

*Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “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!”*

“Intimacy with Jesus is not found in managing your expectations, but in raising them to accommodate miracles.” **–Lisa Harper**

*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***

Leaning into God’s grace is easiest when you have **nothing left to lose**.

1. What do you want God to do for you?
2. What’s in the way?
3. What’s your next step?
4. What’s it worth?

## Discussion questions

1. What's something you're really good at? How did you get that way?
2. Read Mark 10:46-48. Is it easier to see yourself sitting by Bartimaeus or going along with the crowd?
3. If you're up to it, talk about a time when you may have felt or believed that your past had put a lid on your future. How did God show up for you?
4. Author Lisa Harper says, "Intimacy with Jesus is not found in managing expectations, but in raising them to accommodate miracles." How have you found this to be true in your life?
5. Read Mark 10:49-52. Bartimaeus made a BIG ask. What's something big you've asked God for? What might you be afraid to ask him for? Why?
6. Bartimaeus's risk changed the trajectory of his life. How has choosing to follow Jesus changed the trajectory of yours?
7. How can this group pray for you this week?