

In my sermon reading this week, I discovered this retelling of the story of blind Bartimaeus.

In time God decided to walk on earth and to find a man whose wish He would grant. The angels excitedly watched to see if they would be needed to fulfill the wish of that fortunate man. For they loved nothing more than to fulfill His will. And they wondered who would be chosen and so blessed. Perhaps a king whose wish was to bring justice to all the earth, or a great philanthropist who would share the blessings with so many others. Or maybe, He would ask one of His Twelve apostles, holy men, imperfect true but who would no doubt wish the church's success. For angels are not omniscient and must wait to know their Lord's will.

He was leaving Jericho, and the angels were sure He did not find that man whom He was seeking. Then suddenly outside that city of tumbled down walls He heard a voice and stopped. He summoned a noisy blind beggar to come near to Him. And then suddenly asked The Question: "What would you have Me do for you?"

The angels were astounded, for why ask a beggar what he wants? It is obvious and well known that they are satisfied with small coins of no real value, bread crumbs and magic! The apostles were stung, for even they had not been asked to have a wish fulfilled. But they had been debating such a point, just in case they were asked – and they were vying to sit at the right and left hand of Christ in His glory.

The blind man hesitated not a moment to tell God his one wish. He didn't ask for vengeance on all who had walked by ignoring his pathetic poverty and insulting his worthless life to boot. He didn't ask for the winning lottery ticket to end his panhandling misery. He didn't ask for home or wife or comfort. He didn't even ask for happiness. Given the chance to ask whatever he wanted from the traveling God, the blind man asked to see.

The angels marveled, contemplating the opportunity, missed or achieved. Christ granted the one wish of the poor beggar. A new act of creation, giving the man's eyes what they lacked – the ability to see. Creator and new creation. The man experienced what God said at the beginning, "Let there be light."

Those who could see without the help of Christ were not so impressed at the blessed man's request: for seeing hadn't enabled them to find in life a way to be satiated or satisfied.

Who saw what was needed and important? Eyes cannot help us see what the blind man could: the invisible, incomprehensible and ineffable God walking by.

Did the man-now-seeing use his newly given sight to become rich or powerful? No.

He didn't pursue the things of this earth, but rather a certain blessedness. The man formerly blind now followed on the way the God who taught unworldly poverty. He worked not for personal gain but to help others to see what he now could.



TODAY

Trunk or Treat! Please join us **Today** from **2:00-4:00pm** in the Parking Lot with your car and trunks decorated and full of candy to hand out to neighborhood children.

Prizes will be awarded to the trunks with the Best Treats, Best Decorations, and Most Original.

Please contact Pastor Kelly Brooks for questions kellyb@centraltolife.org or 505-243-7834



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE



SERMON SERIES

"LIVING TO GIVE"



COAT DRIVE

It is that time of the year to check your closet and donate coats that can help the homeless stay warm this fall and winter. Please bring them to the Church and leave them in the Helping Hands Ministry Area next to the Life Center. We will be collecting items until **November 18th**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

- **Sundays:** Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am in rooms 105 (Elementary), 107 (ages 3 & 4), and 301/302 (Youth: 6th - 12th grade)
- **Youth Parent & Participant Meeting:** November 11th, 9:45am

Contact Pastor Kelly at kellyb@centraltolife.org for more information.

ADULT MINISTRIES

- **Sundays:** Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am. Choose from a variety of classes:
- **Monday Bible Study:** Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm
- **WOW Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am
- **Starbucks Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 11-12pm
- **Brewery Study**— In Collaboration with X-Ile Ministries: Wednesdays, 6pm-8pm.
- **Clergy Conversations!** Last Sunday of each month, 9:45-10:45am, Central to Life Center. **No CC in November or December.**

Questions? Contact Pastor Kelly at the church office or via email to kellyb@centraltolife.org

WOW BIBLE STUDY

WOW will begin an advent study, **The Gift of the Nutcracker**, by Matt Rawle on October 31. WOW (Women of the Word) meets Wednesday's, 9:30-11:30 am in Room 311.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 23rd Services will serve as our Children's Services Monday, December 24th:
4:00pm, Chapel – Casual Christmas Eve Service
7:00pm, Sanctuary – Carols Heard Around The World Service
11:00pm, Sanctuary – Candlelight & Communion Service

Sunday, December 30th: ONE SERVICE, 10:00am with a Breakfast potluck in The Central Life Center beginning at 9:30am

*The Church Offices will be CLOSED
December 24-January 1st; Open January 2nd, 9:00am.*

PATHWAYS TAMALES SALE

Orders are now being taken! Two varieties are available: pork & red chile and cheese & green chile. They sell for \$20 per dozen. You can order yours today from Pathways - pick them up fresh on 11/3 or frozen until 12/20. Please visit Pathways for more information: www.pathwaysacademynm.org
 Order forms are at the welcoming desk or front office.

All announcements for the CTL News are due via email to JesusValdez@centraltolife.org by **Tuesday at 5pm**.

CHURCH STAFF

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 Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm