



HPUMC SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

MARCH 29, 2026

Title: What Do You Want?

Preacher: Rev. Matt Tuggle

Scripture: Matthew 20:20-34

Jesus was asked many questions throughout his life. In fact, most of his teachings come as responses to what people asked or assumed. But here, just before his final week, Jesus turns the tables and asks a question himself—twice, in two different conversations:

“What do you want?”

First, a mother comes on behalf of her sons, asking for places of honor in his kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28). Then, two blind men cry out from the roadside, simply asking to see (Matthew 20:29-34). It’s a familiar question, but Jesus invites a deeper answer, one that moves beyond surface desires to the longings underneath.

Placed side by side, these stories invite us to compare and reflect. One asks for power, and the other asks for sight. One reveals a kind of blindness despite proximity to Jesus, and the other demonstrates true spiritual vision despite physical blindness. Both, however, need Jesus to open their eyes in different ways.

Through these moments, Jesus redefines life in his kingdom: greatness is not found in status or control but in service, sacrifice, and surrender—the way up is down. He not only teaches this truth but lives it, moving toward the cross and praying, “Not my will, but yours be done.” His invitation is to examine what we want, uncover what we really want, and bring those desires honestly to him. As we follow Jesus, we trust that he will reshape our desires according to his will.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read Matthew 20:20-28. Why do you think Jesus responds the way he does? What does “drinking the cup” mean in this context, and how does it reshape our understanding of greatness?
3. Read Matthew 20:29-34. Why do you think Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” when their need seems obvious? What does their response reveal about their faith and awareness of Jesus’ identity?
4. Are you comfortable being honest with God about what you want? Why or why not? What feels risky about naming your deepest desires before God?
5. In what ways might we, like the disciples, be “spiritually blind” even when we are close to Jesus? How can we cultivate a posture of humility that allows us to truly “see”?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

[Lent](#), the season between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, is traditionally a time for self-reflection and examination—for thinking. These 40 days are often marked by a commitment to fast from certain foods, abstain from particular habits, or adopt new spiritual practices, all with the desire to prepare our hearts for the coming of Easter and the promise of new life.

Week Six: Fast From Sweets

For thousands of years, the early followers of Jesus practiced fasting—abstaining from food for a specified time—as a means of cultivating the fruit of self-control in their lives. Fasting was a way to surrender themselves to God in both mind and body while focusing their hearts on a deep hunger for God. As we enter Holy Week, abstain from sweets—candy, cake, chocolate, etc. In the inevitable moments where you crave the sugar rush, consider how much Jesus sacrificed for us, particularly in the last days of his life. At the end of the week, reflect on your experience: *How have the past few weeks prepared you to better experience the meaning and message of Easter?*