

# Rivals

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## Rival Voices

What do I have to do to get what I want?

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## Discussion Questions

1. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
  2. Our voices shape our vision. Have you ever had someone in your life say something to you that you realize now continues to affect how you see yourself/life/others/God? Please discuss.
  3. What do you think some of the voices that Bartimaeus faced said to him? Have you heard some of those voices in your life as well?
  4. If you are willing to share, please offer what you know about your rival voices: what are they saying and what is their source?
  5. Arguing against rival voices rarely works. The key is not to conquer the rival voices, but to persist against the rival voices. Have you ever had the experience of hearing the voice of Jesus call you out from underneath the power of rival voices? Please discuss.
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## God in Real Life

In order to recognize the rival voices, we do have to ask, “What are they saying? What is their source?” Not to argue but to identify them, not to blame but to understand them. Name that voice, go back to Jesus and go back to His Word and say, “What do You say, God? What do *You* say about me?”

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## To the Heart

“But he kept calling out all the more, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’ So they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.’” Mark 10: 48-49

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*A Prayer for the First Thing in the Morning*

Good morning, Lord!

Great is Your faithfulness and Your steadfast love! Your mercies are made new every morning.

I don't know what is going to happen today, but You do. So I give this day to You.

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and energize me for Your work. Awaken me to the wonder of Your salvation, and quicken my spirit to Your presence in my life.

This day is Yours. My body is Yours. My mind is Yours.

Everything I am is Yours.

You will be faithful to complete the good work You've started, and as I step out into my day, I declare Your sovereignty over every area of my life. I entrust myself to You and ask that You use me however You see fit

May You be pleased with me today.

Amen.

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Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do. I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to Gove myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for your are my Father.

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Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and all that I posses, You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.

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