

**Mark 10:46-52** (Matt 20:29-34, Luke 18:35-43)

<sup>46</sup> Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. <sup>47</sup> And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>48</sup> Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>49</sup> So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

<sup>50</sup> And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

## 1. We are near the final week before Calvary

## 2. So far in Mark 10:

- a. Jesus blesses little children
- b. He dialogues with the rich young ruler
- c. He predicts His death at Jerusalem
- d. He answers "Who is the greatest"?
- e. Now in His final miracle, He heals Bartemeaus

3. First miracle was turning water into wine

4. Last miracle, He opens the eyes of the blind

- a. Symbols of **joy** and **vision**

5. In what appears to be a chaotic scene, there is a personal encounter with Jesus

- a. We want to see a glimpse of His heart
- b. This interaction with Bartemeaus gives us hope that in the middle of our chaos, He is **able, ready** and **willing** to meet with us

### **I. The Desperate Cry (for mercy)**

### **II. The Divine Call (from the merciful One)**

### **III. The Delivering Command**

## **I. The Desperate Cry for mercy**

1. Bartemeaus is a poor beggar who's living day to day
  - a. In a time where there are many blind
    - i. No physician to cure
    - ii. Government to help
    - iii. No hope for a better day
  - b. His future is bleak and there is no hope for him
2. He lives in the busy town of Jericho
  - a. Much trade happens there
    - i. Fortunes are made there
    - ii. But not for him
  - b. Many of the priests live in that town
    - i. They can't help him either
    - ii. Many priests thought disease was God's judgement
3. Jesus has 2 encounters in Jericho

- a. Zaccheus
  - b. Bartemeus
    - i. One is very wealthy and has great need
    - ii. One is poor and also has great need
4. It's a picture of humanity and how God deals with us
- a. Truth is, all of us are blind beggars in need of the Savior
    - i. Regardless of wealth, education or social status
5. Bartemeus understand his situation.
- a. He needs help from God
6. When he heard it was Jesus, he cried out
- a. In **faith, passion & humility**
7. **Cry of Faith:** Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me
- a. Term used only for Messiah - declaring his faith
  - b. Rom 10:17** Faith comes by hearing...

**c. Perhaps he heard about His miracles...**

- a. John 9 healing of the blind man
- b. John 11 Lazarus raised to life

**d. Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed"

- e. He believed Jesus could heal him
  - i. Without faith, it is impossible to please God
  - ii. We must believe that God is a rewarder of those who seek Him

**8. Cry of Passion Krazo:** as a woman in labor

- a. Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David
- b. His window of opportunity was open & his need was great

- c. Like someone who is destitute in his own hearts and needs Jesus like his next breath
- d. He cried out with passion to the one who is able
  - i. We should seize the opportunity and cry out for our eyes to be open, ears, heart...
  - ii. Who knows if this would be the last time Jesus would pass by

9. **Cry of humility:** Have mercy on me

- a. **Matthew 5:** Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- b. The only way to approach God for anything is with a humble & broken spirit
- c. That's why Jesus told the rich young ruler to go sell everything he has and come follow Him
- d. Without a humble attitude, we are lost and without hope

**e. The crowds want to shut them up**

f. We will also find a number of voices inside & outside that want to stop our pursuit of God

g. World system, religion, carnal nature all will fight you to be quiet

i. **World** - "The way to get ahead is try harder, make it on your own" "trust no one"

ii. **Religion** - "You are not good enough" "God is angry with you" "pray more, read more, sin less..."

iii. **Carnal nature** "Don't embarrass yourself" "If you fail, everyone will mock you"

➤ **How bad do you want to see?**

➤ Persistence is our indication to ourselves that God is who we really desire

**10. Psalm 42:1** As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God

## **11. He continued crying out all the more**

**a. I need to get louder than the other voices**

b. We pursue things we need passionately

## **II. The Divine Call**

1. Vs. 49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called

a. Notice it was others that called Bartemeus

b. The blind man didn't hear Jesus first hand

i. He simply believed the report he heard

ii. We may not hear Jesus directly, but others whom Jesus sends to us

1. God's Word personally or through others is just the same

## **2. Why didn't Jesus stop the first time?**

a. Some question God's care for them when their initial cry is not answered



**a. God always hears us the first time**

**i. It may be we wait for an answer to show us what we really want**

1. We pursue things we really want with fervency

**ii. It may be that God has a plan in mind**

2. Somehow in God's economy, this pain will result in God's glory

3. People will be helped

3. How bad did Bartemeaus want to meet with Jesus?

**a. He threw aside his garment**

a. This was a special garment that identified him being a beggar

b. Without it, he would be cold at night and no longer identified as a professional beggar

i. He believed that Jesus would answer him to the point of risking tomorrow

- ii. Every weight or hindrance needs to be thrown off and run to Christ
- iii. All bridges need to be burned as we rely on God and God alone

#### 4. What do you want me to do for you?

- a. Do you want to be made well?
- b. Not everyone wants to be made well
  - a. Some want to wallow in their pain
  - b. It becomes their identity

#### 5. Bartemeus could have asked anything

- c. I can imagine the pressure mounting as so many people are gathered
- d. Whenever you are under real pressure, you speak what is really in your heart
- e. Bartemeus could have asked
  - i. Why did God allow this to happen?
    - 1. Please give me money

2. Give me provision
3. Give me justice

f. Instead, he requested mercy

**g. Mercy leads us to grace**

- a. **Rabboni**, that I may receive my sight.”
- b. He acknowledged Jesus Lordship first
- c. This puts everything into perspective
- i. He is LORD**

6. Many want to question/blame God and not really leave their current situation

**a. This is a great lesson for us on what we are meditating on during our difficulty**

b. **James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing

c. Our prayer and meditation should be "Lord,  
that I may see"

7. **Lam 3:22** Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.<sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

d. When I can see Jesus clearly, everything else falls into place

8. Lord, give us this vision

9. Jesus has compassion and touched him

10. **Commentator:** Blind men no doubt needed the encouragement of the personal touch, and it's a beautiful expression of the true humanity of Jesus who understands all of our human needs. He touched [him]. But it also is an identification, for to touch, to lay hands upon was a sign of identification

11. Jesus didn't ask him to make promises before healing

### III. The Delivering Command

12. **Go your way; your faith has made you well**

- a. **Go your way** gives the man freedom to choose
  - i. Jesus will never force anyone to follow Him

13. When he was healed, he followed Jesus

14. This is an indication of genuine regeneration

15. If I don't follow Jesus after my encounter of salvation, then my salvation is in question

16. **MH** None follow Christ blindfold. He first by his grace opens men's eyes, and so draws their hearts after him. They followed Christ, as his disciples, to learn of him, and as his witnesses, eye-witnesses, to bear their testimony to him and to his power and goodness. The best evidence of spiritual illumination is a constant inseparable adherence to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Leader

17. Following Jesus, Bartemeus would begin his journey

a. His vision would increase the more he followed Jesus

18. **2 Cor 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord