

TEXT: Mark 10:46-52 Luke 18:35-43

Mark 10:46-52 ⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, a son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, saying, Jesus, Son of David, have pity *and* mercy on me [now]!

⁴⁸ And many severely censured *and* reproved him, telling him to keep still, but he kept on shouting out all the more, You Son of David, have pity *and* mercy on me [now]!

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, Call him. And they called the blind man, telling him, Take courage! Get up! He is calling you.

⁵⁰ And throwing off his outer garment, he leaped up and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, What do you want Me to do for you? And the blind man said to Him, Master, let me receive my sight.

⁵² And Jesus said to him, Go your way; your faith has healed you. And at once he received his sight and accompanied Jesus on the road.

In these verses 46-52 Mark concluded the "on the road" section just as he began it—with the story of a blind man (8:22-26). This account contrasted what the blind man could see with what the disciples could not (10:35-45).

In this verse 46 we see that the city of Jericho lay 17 miles northeast and 3,500 feet below Jerusalem. The large crowd was made up of Passover pilgrims.

These verses 47-48 show that this is the second time Mark identified Jesus as the Nazarene (1:24), and the only time in Mark that someone addressed Jesus as Son of David, a messianic designation based on 2nd Samuel 7:11-14 (cp. Mark 11:10; 12:35-37).

Verse 52 In contrast to His healing of the blind man in 8:22-25, Jesus simply announced Bartimaeus's healing. Healed is the Greek word *sozo*. It can refer to physical healing and spiritual salvation. Bartimaeus experienced both. **HCSB Study Bible.**

Luke 18:35-43 ³⁵ As He came near to Jericho, it occurred that a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

³⁶ And hearing a crowd going by, he asked what it meant.

³⁷ They told him, Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.

³⁸ And he shouted, saying, Jesus, Son of David, take pity *and* have mercy on me!

³⁹ But those who were in front reproved him, telling him to keep quiet; yet he screamed *and* shrieked so much the more, Son of David, take pity *and* have mercy on me!

⁴⁰ Then Jesus stood still and ordered that he be led to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him,

⁴¹ What do you want Me to do for you? He said, Lord, let me receive my sight!

⁴² And Jesus said to him, Receive your sight! Your faith (your trust and confidence that spring from your faith in God) has healed you.

⁴³ And instantly he received his sight and began to follow Jesus, recognizing, praising, *and* honoring God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

18:35-43 In [Luke 17:11](#), Jesus apparently crossed the Jordan River to the east near the border between Galilee and Samaria. Now He crossed back to the west opposite **Jericho**.

When the **blind man** inquired about the crowd, he was only told that **Jesus the Nazarene** (from Nazareth, in Galilee, a town of little significance) was near.

There is nothing messianic about such an identification. However, when he cried out that Jesus was the **Son of David** (see [Matthew 1:1](#)), he was confessing Jesus as Messiah. His faith became the basis for his healing. His cry, **Have mercy on me**, prompted Jesus to restore his sight.

It is ironic that the formerly blind man, who now became a disciple of Jesus, could **see** immediately, while the 12 apostles had no insight into where Jesus and His ministry were headed (see note at [vs. 31-34](#)). **HCSB Study Bible**.

INTRO: What must it be like to be physically blind? To not be able to see anything.

All too often, we tend to take our physical abilities for granted...that is, until something happens, and we start to lose them little by little or, suddenly.... boom, they are gone!

Think of all the natural abilities that God has given to us. The ability to, or the gift of:

- a) Hearing
- b) Touching
- c) Tasting
- d) Smelling
- e) Walking
- f) Seeing

Of these six (6) wonderful things that God has given to us who are still able to enjoy all of them, which one would you ok with losing?

What if you had been born without one or more of these gifts, which one or ones would you chose to be without?

Well, allow me to simply say that the choice is not ours to make! Also allow me to say that we CANNOT blame God when a child is born into this world missing any of these senses or worse.

During the days of the Old Testament, we often read of those born with deformities and someone always asks the question: "Who's fault was, or is it?" Who did sin to cause this man or woman to be in this condition?"

Shall I give you the answer to that which my dad would always say is the \$64,000-dollar question?

Do you REALLY want to know who is at fault for our physical condition as it is now?

Well, his name is Adam! Genesis 3:1-7

And we must not forget about the sinful state of man as it has grown deeper and darker and more depraved as the generations have moved forward!

Because of the depths of sin by which man has plunged into, we **MUST** take some of the blame unto ourselves for the condition by which children enter into this world. **FOR EXAMPLE:**

- 1) Alcohol

- 2) Drugs
- 3) Illicit sex
- 4) That which is unnatural as described in 2nd Timothy 3:1-9 ...etc.

THESE are but a few of many reasons why infants are born with infirmities that they should not have!

Babies born addicted to crack cocaine and other drugs, born with diseases that should not be because of individuals who, while enjoying the pleasures of sin, cared nothing of the consequences.

And yet ... there is a cure for all of them ... quite simply it is: “When Jesus Passes by!”

BODY: Before we get into our text verses, I would like to remind you that Matthew also records this miracle, but with a different look.

Blind Bartimaeus. Matthew says there were two. Mark mentions but one, though he does not deny that there was another. He mentions this man because he was well known-Bartimaeus, *THE blind man.*
Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.

In Matthew 20:29-34, there is a different account of this miracle. Please allow me to give you these differences.

The differences in this account (which speaks of two blind men and of the miracle being done as Jesus left Jericho) and the accounts in Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18:35-43 (which mention only one blind man and the miracle performed as they entered Jericho) can be explained this way:

- 1) There were actually two men involved, but Bartimaeus, being more aggressive, takes the place of prominence; and
- 2) The men pled with Jesus as He entered Jericho but were not healed until He was leaving. It is also possible that the healing took place after Jesus left old Jericho and was nearing new Jericho.

When Bartimaeus cried out and used the phrase “Son of David,” he was using the specific messianic title which also linked Jesus to the messianic line as found in Matthew 1:1, Psalm 72, and Isaiah 9:7.

Bartimaeus Was A Blind Beggar – Verse 46

A. Bartimaeus was no doubt born blind and at some point, his parents taught him to go and sit by the highway and beg for that which he needed.

I, like a great majority of people have seen many individuals “sitting or standing” by the highways begging for, well, let’s just say help.

Their signs range for: “Please help, homeless, need to feed my children, will work for food, homeless vet, and so on.

Yet they always seem to have some things available to them even as they are begging, i.e., most all of them are drinking or have something to drink, are eating or have food with them, and the worse thing is a lot of them are smoking. If they can afford to buy cigarettes or other things to smoke, they can buy food!

Cigarettes, dip, smokeless tobacco, and the sort, quite simply is not cheap, and I for one WILL NOT give money to someone like that!

B. Bartimaeus, most likely needed a shower or a bath. His clothes, no doubt, were tattered, torn and unclean.

Since he had no one to depend on and the fact that he was blind, he could not be held totally responsible for his physical condition.

One thing is for certain, and that is that the “Muckity Mucks and the upper crust of society wanted nothing to do with him or those like him.

The very ones who should have been taking care of him and those like him, “the religious crowds, the representatives of the religious order of that day, the scribes and the Pharisees” wanted nothing to do him or his kind.

C. Bartimaeus, unlike so many people, realized that he had a need.

He knew that he was blind and for sure needed no one to tell him that.

Because of his physical blindness, he knew of only one way of life, and that was to sit by the highway side begging for his every need.

Are you aware that the Bible does not tell us if Bartimaeus even had a place to live? That side of the road may have been where he lived.

I wonder sometimes if you and I are any better off than Bartimaeus because we have functional eyesight.

He was blind and could not see physically, while we have physical eyesight and yet cannot see.

Notice with me this morning/tonight as we look at some specific things concerning Bartimaeus.

I. Bartimaeus Rightly “Correctly” Did Three Things – verse 47

A. He Rightly “Correctly” Heard Who It Was That Passed By – verse 47a.

“And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,”

We do not always “rightly or correctly” hear things. For instance:

- 1) My wife Kathie so often will ask if it is cold or hot outside before she decides whether or not she will need a coat or a wrap. I always tell her how it feels to me, but she may hear or interpret what I said differently.
- 2) Here at Abner Baptist Church we have what we call “Sacrifice Sunday.” This is where we mark an offering envelop with the word “SACRIFICE” and we give over and above our normal tithes and offerings. However, all some folks hear is the word sacrifice and take it to mean something totally different.

We just do not always rightly or correctly hear.

B. He Rightly “Correctly” Cried Out To The Right Person - verse 47b.

“he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, *thou* Son of David,”

No doubt Bartimaeus had heard of the many miracles of which Jesus had done to others and he desperately sought the same for himself.

C. He Rightly “Correctly” Cried Out For The Right Thing - verse 47c.

“have mercy on me.”

Bartimaeus wanted mercy – not justice! This is exactly what God has provided to all who will come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for all mankind. MERCY – NOT JUSTICE!

Bartimaeus used the Greek Word: ἐλεέω - el-eh-eh'-o - to *compassionate* (by word or deed, specially by divine grace) :- have compassion (pity on), have (obtain, receive, shew) mercy (on).

II. Bartimaeus Rightly “Correctly” Chose Not To Obey The Peer Pressure – verse 48.

A. Just like today, when someone is at a critical junction in life where they are ready to cry out to Jesus as He Passes by, the crowds tried to silence Bartimaeus – verse 48a.

“And many charged him that he should hold his peace:”

What they were really saying was, “Hey man... shut up, the wrong people might hear you.”

Thank God Bartimaeus was not concerned with the wrong people of his time, for his focus was set on the Son of God Who was passing by that day.

JUST FYI... This was the first and only time that Jesus went to Jericho! He ONLY passed by that one time, and He may never pass by you again if you turn Him away!

B. The more the crowds tried to keep him quiet, the louder he got – verse 48b.

“but he cried the more a great deal,”

Never give in to peer pressure or follow the crowds.... for they may be, and for the most part, are wrong!

C. He cried even louder as he begged for that which he needed – verse 48c.

“*Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*” Reference Psalm 62:12

Grant me pity and show me compassion...not justice or judgment, was what he asked for.

What are you asking for of Jesus as He passes by this morning/tonight?

D. His cries are heard by the Master – verse 49.

Notice what takes place in verse 49 after Jesus heard Bartimaeus’ cries:

“And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called.” – 49a.

Jesus, when He hears that cry of a blind, lost and searching soul, ALWAYS stops as He is passing by, stands still and waits for your request.

Notice the difference in the crowd when Jesus “commanded him to be called.”

“And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.” - 49b.

All of a sudden, the crowd is now offering words of encouragement and ready to follow Bartimaeus.

This morning/tonight, He, Jesus is commanding you to be called and that is just what I am doing as I offer to you these same words... “Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.”

E. He throws off that which might hinder him as he approaches Jesus – verse 50.

Casting away his garment. That is, his *outer* garment; the one that was thrown loosely over him. He threw it off, full of joy at the prospect of being healed, and that he might run without impediment to Jesus.

This may be used to illustrate—though it had no such original reference—the manner in which a sinner should come to Jesus.

He should throw away the garments of his own righteousness—he should rise speedily—should run with joy—should have full faith in the power of Jesus and cast himself entirely upon his mercy. **Reference** **Philippians 3:7-15**

III. Bartimaeus Rightly “Correctly” Waited To Hear From The Master – verse 51.

A. Jesus answers his call and then certainly asked a most strange question Of Bartimaeus – verse 51.

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?” verse 51a.

What a strange question for Jesus to ask, as He already knew that Bartimaeus was blind, yet, Jesus wanted, yea needed to hear Bartimaeus reveal his need. Jeremiah 33:3

Bartimaeus responds with a point-blank answer: “The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.” Verse 51b.

It is right here in this very simply request that Bartimaeus not only received his natural sight, but his spiritual sight as well.

It is in the word “Lord,” that he received salvation and both of his sights.

He could rightly sing: “I once was blind but now I see...”

IV. Bartimaeus Rightly “Correctly” Heard, Believed and Received From The Master – verse 52.

A. Without hesitation, Jesus honored his request.

“And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.” Verse 52a.

Give some examples from the Scriptures here of both Old and New Testament faith.

B. Without hesitation Bartimaeus received and followed Jesus.

“And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.” Verse 52b.

SUMMARY: No longer known as “THE blind man or Old blind Bartimaeus,” but rather one whose faith had made him whole “complete.”

CONCLUSION: What about you this morning/tonight?

Do you have eyes yet cannot see? O’ you say I have 20/20 vision Pastor. Maybe so, physically, BUT what about spiritually?

Prayer and Invitation: