

Healing of Blind Bartimaeus – July 13, 2022

Story told in Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43 (Parallel story of 2 blind in Matt 20)

It's a testimony of a man's determination to be healed. Bartimaeus.

Jesus, his disciples, & a large crowd are just outside city of Jericho. A blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth**, he began to shout, "**Jesus, Son of David**, have mercy on me!"

- Bartimaeus knows of Jesus. He believes he's the Messiah. Sees more...

48 Many **rebuked** him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

- All he had was his voice... he was using it. Enthusiastically!
- **Rebuke**: "express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behavior or actions."
- Don't let anybody silence your voice or dampen your enthusiasm when you're seeking Jesus.
- People w/o a relationship w/Jesus will actively try to prevent yours.
 - The Enemy will, too... "Jesus has more important things..." Enemy lies!

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

- Jesus asked the people to call Bartimaeus.
 - He's still asking us to bring people to Him.
 - "Take courage. Get up. Jesus is calling you." - **Mk 10:49 – Bearean Study Bible**. Let us never forget to tell others that message!
- **Note**: Jesus **stopped** & He **waited**. **1)** waited for someone to tell Bart; **2)** waited for Bart to come to Him; **3)** waited to hear what Bart had to say.
- **You are important to Jesus**. In a society where nobody noticed him, where they **rebuked** him... Jesus stopped.
 - **Luke 18:40** – "Jesus stood still & ordered the man to be brought to him" Time/heaven stands still as God waits & listens for us.

50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

- Cloak: an exterior tunic, wide & long, reaching to the ankles, but w/o sleeves. Cloak was an outer garment, but was also a blanket at night.

This is what the Bible says about cloaks:

- “If you take your neighbor’s cloak as security for a loan, you must return it before sunset. This coat may be the only blanket your neighbor has. How can a person sleep without it? If you do not return it & your neighbor cries out to me for help, then I will hear, for I am merciful” (Ex. 22:26-27 NLT)
- “If your neighbor is poor and gives you his cloak as security for a loan, do not keep the cloak overnight. Return the cloak to its owner by sunset so he can stay warm through the night and bless you, and the LORD your God will count you as righteous.” (Deut. 24:12-13 NLT)

Cloak is important to an Israelite... so crucial, you don’t deprive them of it even to secure a loan. YET, Bart is willing to leave it behind to go to Jesus.

- o Bartimaeus likely spread his cloak to catch coins tossed to him. By **throwing off his cloak, he shows his faith** - Jesus would heal him... he’d no longer be blind... no need to use cloak to beg.
- o Leaving the cloak frees Bartimaeus of any impediment to Jesus.
 - Cloaks were long; draped in front, accident waiting to happen.
- o **Heb 12:1 NLT** – “since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”
 - What hold us back from embracing Jesus, or serving Him?
 - Do we go after Jesus, enthusiastically? Ignoring what others say? Do we allow obstacles, preventing our worship? Our service?

51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

- Bartimaeus could’ve asked for \$ or food. He doesn’t. His request is big!
- He didn’t try to justify his request; didn’t list all his problems... just ask.
 - o No pretenses, no build-up, no whining.
- **Note:** Bartimaeus doesn’t tell Jesus how to do it. Leaves details to God.

- Jesus could heal w/o the asking. But our asking shows faith.
 - “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (**Luke 11:9**, NIV)
 - Don’t be hesitant to ask God. It’s not selfish. It’s faith. Trust.

52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

- After being healed, Bartimaeus doesn’t go back and get his cloak. Leaves his former life behind. Can’t have new life, clinging to the old.
- It’s likely that **we know Bart’s name** b/c he followed Jesus.
 - Make a name for yourself in the Kingdom of God.
- **Luke 18:43** – “Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; **and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.**”
 - **Our stories give hope to others.** Thru us, they can praise God.
 - **We must strive to give God praise, not receive praise.**

Blind Bartimaeus’ story should be our story... that we know who Jesus is, ... have faith in God’s power... Blind Bartimaeus had a wholehearted trust in the Healer – that faith pleases God.

Bartimaeus should inspire us - nothing gets in the way of our following Jesus.

- If the crowd had its way, Bart would have been silent & Jesus passed Him by... **the crowd isn’t always right.** And the crowd is fickle. Changes!
 - God doesn’t change. Same yesterday, today, & tomorrow. Heb. 13:8
 - We have our own decision to make. Don’t follow the crowd.

Song of the week – “Healer” – Casting Crowns