

Let Me Recover My Sight

Mark 10:46-52

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. This portion of Scripture is an example of what true discipleship looks like.
 - i. Chapter 8-10 have been poignant lessons on what it means to be disciples, this last story makes it abundantly clear.
- b. Bartimaeus is the least of these, the marginalized.
- c. Yet, despite his condition or because of it, Bartimaeus has an insight that escapes the disciples and that of the crowd.
- d. This story is unique in the book of Mark in that:
 - i. His name is the only name of someone healed that is given
 - ii. This is the final healing miracle in the Book of Mark

2. Verse 46 – Bartimaeus

- a. Followed by the disciples and a great crowd
 - i. The crowd and the disciples are insiders.
 - ii. They are walking and enjoying fellowship with Jesus.
 - iii. However, the disciples and the crowd have demonstrated that they do not have a proper appreciation for:
 1. Their own condition
 2. The nature of Christ
- b. Bartimaeus – son of Timaeus
 - i. He is an outsider
 1. Sitting by the side of the road – marginalized by the society
 2. It was a common belief that anyone that suffered some physical handicap was a person whom God was displeased with.
 - ii. He was a beggar – both physically and spiritually
 1. Physically – he could not help himself; to work—he depended on the charity of others.
 - a. The same others that thought that God was punishing him.
 2. Spiritually – he is like all of us, unable to help ourselves and totally dependent upon the mercy of God.

3. Verse 47 – A Disciple’s Faith

a. When he heard that Jesus was coming

- i. Somehow he knew of Jesus—the fame of Jesus spreading
- ii. What he knew of Jesus was enough to produce a faith unlike that of most of the crowd

1. What they heard drove them to awe but not faith
2. His hearing produced saving faith

a. **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

b. **Acts 2:36-38** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (37) Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (38) And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

b. Jesus, Son of David

i. Son of David

1. A Messianic title for the coming offspring of David

a. **2 Samuel 7:11-13** from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. (12) When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. (13) He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

b. Bartimaeus is referring to Jesus as the Messiah

- ii. His understanding of Messiah was that of a Merciful one

1. Have mercy on me—demonstrates the belief that messiah could do what was being asked and an understanding that Messiah was full of mercy

- iii. Irony in the book of Mark—Even though Bartimaeus is blind, he can see better than the crowds

4. Verse 48 – Be silent!
 - a. And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.
 - i. The disciples and the crowd have prevented people from coming to Jesus before—the crowds are a hindrance and it is the most clear in this passage.
 - b. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"
 - i. Nothing can silence Bartimaeus
 - ii. Opposition only fans the flame of persistence
 - iii. The kingdom of heaven is not for the well-meaning but for the desperate.
 - c. When a sinner truly sees his need; when his eyes are opened to his natural sinful condition, he will not be dissuaded from coming to Christ
 - i. **Matthew 13:45-46** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, (46) who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

5. Verse 49 – Call him
 - a. Though the crowd would hinder Bartimaeus from coming and would stop him from crying out, Christ always hears the faithful call of the heart desperate to reach him.
 - b. The crowds change

6. Verse 50 – A true response to the call of Christ
 - a. A Sinner's right reaction – Throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus
 - i. Cloak – 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 the manner in which a sinner should come to Jesus. He should throw away any impediment - should run with joy - should have full faith in the power of Jesus, and cast himself entirely upon his mercy.
 - b. The blind man runs to the one that can save him.
 - c. Even we Christians are commanded to divest ourselves of anything that would hinder
 - i. We like the sinner must come to Jesus unencumbered by the things of this world.

- ii. **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

7. Verse 51 – What do you want me to do?

- a. This is the same question asked of the Disciples James and John.
 - i. They asked for their own glory and honor.
- b. Rabbi – the true Greek word used here is ***Rabbouni*** – never used of man but of God as our teacher – Bartimaeus intimates as to the nature of Christ as the Son of God; God the Son
- c. Bartimaeus ask for ordinary health – for sight.
 - i. The heart of Bartimaeus is quite different than that of the Disciples.

8. Verse 52 – Go your faith has made you well

- a. The Greek word for made you well—***sesōken***—also means saved
 - i. Physical and spiritual
- b. He immediately recovered his sight
- c. And followed Jesus on the way
 - i. He goes from the side of the road – marginalized – to one the way with Christ – a follower
 - ii. Jesus has transformed him from beggar to disciple—as he does with all of us.
 - iii. Whoever ask of Jesus, must be willing to follow Jesus...even on the uphill road to the cross.

9. Benediction –

- a. **Ruth 1:16-18** But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (17) Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." (18) And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.