

## **MARK 10:46-52 THE BLIND BEGGAR BARTIMAEUS**

### **INTRO:**

- As Jesus and His followers leave Jerico, they travel with a great crowd heading to Jerusalem for the coming Passover.
- Jerusalem is about 16 miles to the S.E. It is about a 6-hour journey on foot and it is mostly an ascent.
- Luke records that they were coming near Jerico, while Matt. and Mk. record they were leaving Jerico. Both gospels are correct as at this time there were two Jerico's.
- The original city which was in ruins and had been destroyed by Joshua and the Israeli army, and the new city Jerico. They were only a mile apart.
- The new Jerico was a favorite resting place for weary travelers. It has one of the richest oases in the whole region and it is surrounded by scores of various beautiful palm trees.
- Matt. also records there were two blind men begging, while Lk, and Mk. record only the one.
- Let us notice also Jesus our humble loving Savior for He is on His way to calvary, just days from His crucifixion and He takes time to bless and heal the blind.
- Blindness according to the Hebrew culture at this time was thought to be a sign of God's judgment for sin, a sign of His displeasure.
- The gospels are loaded with people who Jesus healed, or delivered, but of all those healings only once are we given the recipient's name. Bartimaeus.
- This is the last recorded healing in the book of MK.
  - May our eyes of our hearts be open to see/ the "Desperation and Persistence of a sinner.
  - The love and mercy of the Savior
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  - The loyalty and devotion of a saint.

### **VS. 47:**

- Notice his swift reaction to the news Jesus is coming.
- Bartimaeus seems to have had some knowledge of the healing power of Jesus and some understanding of who He was, for hearing it was He who was coming he began to cry out...
- **Cry out:** used especially of the cry of a raven, the same word used to describe the crowd crying for Jesus to be crucified, and the cry of Jesus on the cross.
- Notice the outcry of the blind beggar, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
- The title or phrase, "**son of David**" is a national messianic title reserved for the Messiah. This Bartimaeus cries out twice.
- **Have Mercy:** In the Bible, mercy is used in reference to giving forgiveness or withholding punishment. Kindness, and benevolence.

- I sometimes say grace is receiving something we don't deserve, while mercy is NOT receiving something we do deserve.
  - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

#### **VS. 48"**

- See his persistence, though the crowd tells him to hold his peace, he only cries the louder.
- He cared not of the ridicule and harassment he received in seeking the Savior, he persevered, he pressed forward to the goal of his high calling, seeing Him who is invisible. Jesus the healer.
- We too must press through the opposition of the crowd, the culture. It may be friends or family, it may be circumstances, it may be fear or the love of comfort, it may be sin, but we press on, don't stop praying, coming
- Ignore those who oppose the will of God, the holiness of God.

#### **VS. 49:**

- Be of good cheer: or be of good courage. A change in out-look and attitude, be expectant.
- Bartimaeus must have been besides himself, very desperate, hopeless and helpless, but when Jesus called him, he was encouraged to be of hopeful and cheerful. The answer is coming!

#### **VS. 50:**

- Immediately when Jesus calls him, he bursts into action. Like the wise virgins in MT. 25, when they hear the bridegroom is coming, they were ready, trimming their lamps.
- He throws off his long robe, rises and comes to Jesus. Nothing to hold or hinder his going.
  - Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

#### **VS. 51:**

- Jesus asks him what, "what do you want me to do for you.
- It was obvious what Bartimaeus was seeking Jesus for, but I believe there was more here than meets the eye.
- Jesus is drawing him out and testing his faith.
- This is also the exact same question Jesus had asked James and John in vs. 36, however their answer was quite different.
- James and John asked for thrones and position, this blind beggar asks not for position but for mercy unto healing.
- RABBONI: (rah-bon-ee) That is "my great One, or my great Master."
- a title almost entirely applied to the president of the Sanhedrin, It was even more respectful than Rabbi, and signified "My great master;

- It is intensely personal and expressed from the heart. It expresses a personal faith or trust.
- It is only used one other time in the gospel and that is in JN 20:16 at the tomb, after the resurrection and spoken by Mary Magdalene.
- In Matt. gospel, he adds 2 additional details, 1) Jesus had compassion on him, and 2) Jesus touched his eyes.
- We can see this was true as Jesus says to Bartimaeus, "your faith has made you well."
- To Receive my sight. The word "receive" is better translated to "recover" my sight.
- It may be that Bartimaeus at one time could see

### VS. 52:

- WELL, your faith has made you well. In GK. is the word sozo, it is used frequently in the NT to refer to salvation.
- The normal and most often word to convey healing is "iaomai, to heal, which is not used here.
- Did he receive the forgiveness of sin, did he receive something of salvation?
- He saw that this Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of David, the coming Messiah whom all the prophets had prophesied about long ago.
- He had seen not one of Jesus's miracles, no lepers cleansed by just a touch, no demons cast out by just a word, no storms and seas stilled by just a word, he saw no one raised from the dead, none of these great things had he witnessed, but he had heard the reports of our Lords mighty works.
- I wonder if his father, Timaeus had taught him scriptures or taken him to the synagogue to hear the prophecies of the coming Messiah?
- We too have never seen Jesus with our eyes but we believe and agree with Peter;
  - whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 1 Peter 1:8
- What would be the first thing you would do after receiving your sight?
- Run into town and show and celebrate with your family, your friends?
- Not Bartimaeus, he follows Jesus in the way.
- Perhaps this says something of a life that was empty, no friends or family. A life of lonesomeness and poverty... Until Jesus!
- Imagine, the first face Bartimaeus saw was the blessed face of Jesus, His loving, caring, merciful Savior..... Fanny Crosby.
- Bartimaeus: He was blind in body, but not in soul. The eyes of his understanding were open.
- He saw and understood things that even the high priests, Annas and Caliphias and the hosts of letter learned scribes and pharisees never saw.
  - Mt. 11:25; "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.
- Bartimaeus wanted and found more than healing of sight, for after he was healed yet he follows Jesus, he did not walk away.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- **All Spirit birthed prayers get Divine answers. Sow good seeds of prayer on the heart of God where there is no hard, no stoney, no thorny ground, but all is good soil and will yield 100-fold to the true prayer-seed sown.**
- **The last view we have of Bartimaeus is that he followed Jesus in the way.**
- **He is our encouragement to following Jesus even if the way leads to calvary, just as Paul testified,**
  - **<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 2 Cor. 14-15.**
- **Have the eyes of my soul been healed and opened by the Spirit of God?**
- **Have I been taught to see sin salvation, holiness and heaven in their true light?**
- **Can we say "one thing I know that once I was blind and now, I see?"**
- **Bartimaeus was blind and in poverty, yet God had his eye on him. His disadvantage led him to Jesus.**
- **In the light of the mercy of God to us, there is no room in our hearts for pride, boasting, or judging another according to my particular view?**
- **Can we forgive, love, or show mercy in the same measure in which we have received forgiveness, love, and mercy from the Lord.**
- **Mt. 10:8; "freely you have received, freely give."**