

BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Mark 10:46-52

18 November 2022

The Bible says, **“The LORD openeth *the eyes of the blind*”** (Psa 146:8). No man had ever **“opened the eyes of one that was born blind”** (Jn 9:32). Accordingly, any man who could give sight to the blind would have to be the LORD God. By God’s Amazing Grace, we once were blind to the things of God, but now we see. The Lord has given us our spiritual sight.

Vs 46 “He went out of Jericho...” Bartimaeus was in the right place to meet Jesus. He separated himself from the accursed city of Jericho, which God forbid to be rebuilt (Josh 6:26, 1 Ki 16:34).

- If you want the Lord to give you sight or impart a spiritual blessing upon you, you must separate yourself from this accursed world and all of its desires, joys, pleasures, vices, and habits that might entice you.
- If you want to follow Jesus, take up your cross daily (Lk 9:23) and don’t look back (Lk 9:62) like Lot’s wife did (Lk 17:32, Gen 19:26). You must be willing to get away from whatever it is in this world that might hold you back from following the Lord (Romans 12:2, Matthew 13:22, 1 Jn 2:15-16).
 - Jesus Christ will not stay where He is not welcome. This world does not welcome Him. If you will get away from the world, and welcome Jesus, He’ll not refuse fellowship with you.

“Bartimaeus...sat by the highway side begging.” We read this and tend to feel sorry for this man. But this beggar had an advantage that we don’t have. If he were not blind, he would be distracted and consumed by the same things that hinder us whenever we desire to have a closer walk with the Lord.

- The average person does not lack food, clothing, friends, transportation, or good health. This tends to make us distance ourselves from God. We feel we can meet our own needs, so we don’t pray for our daily bread (Mt 6:11) and we don’t pray for God to clothe us (Mt 6:30) because we don’t think we need Him. Bartimaeus KNEW he needed the Lord!

Vs 47 “When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, JESUS...” This beggar man was not concerned about what anybody thought or said about him calling out to Jesus. He wanted Jesus more than anything.

Vs 48 “Many charged him that he should hold his peace.” People don’t like when a “fanatic” calls out for Jesus. But Jesus tends to stop and stay awhile for those who aren’t ashamed to call upon Him. If you don’t want Jesus to simply pass through your church service, you may have to make some noise.

“But he cried the more a great deal.” When you know you need Jesus Christ, you won’t let anybody stop you from seeking Him. Don’t worry about opinion, ridicule, mockery, or scolding. Do whatever it takes to get the Lord’s attention.

Vs 49 “And Jesus stood still.” We need to try and get Jesus to stand still with us. Because whenever He spends time with us, He is sure to do something amazing and needful for us.

“...and commanded him to be called.” Here is a picture of the salvation of a lost person who knows he has a need, he calls out to Jesus, Jesus stands still, and commands His disciples to bring the man to Him.

- Jesus wants people to come unto Him (Mt. 11:28). But *we* (Jesus' disciples) are commanded to bring them (Mt 22:9, Lk 14:23).
 - Disciples must be walking with Jesus, or they won't be able to do what Jesus wants them to do.
 - They must be close enough to Jesus to hear His commands.
 - They must be obedient to do what Jesus asks them to do.

"...Be of good comfort..." Whatever your need, it is a comfort to know that Jesus is standing by to meet that need.

"...rise..." Meeting Jesus Christ is a step up from wherever you are in your station of life.

"He calleth thee." Jesus calls each person as an individual. The Lord is my Shepherd and my Savior.

Vs 50 "And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus." Here is a picture of something that you are holding onto, something that occupies your life that you need to cast aside and come to Jesus.

- Love of money, pleasure, drugs, alcohol, worldly friends, bigshot status (pride), etc.
- Jesus' disciples can help a lost person see what is blinding them to the gospel truth.

"...he...rose, and came to Jesus." The blind man knew the disciples didn't have the power to meet his need. He needed to get to Jesus.

Vs 51 "Jesus answered...What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" "Lord, That I might receive my sight."

- Step 1: Leave Jericho; separate yourself from the desires and pleasures of this accursed world.
- Step 2: Call on Jesus Christ as a blind beggar with a need only He can meet.
- Step 3: Jesus will seek to meet your need.

Vs 52 "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole."

This account is a perfect picture of salvation. Jesus Christ is certainly capable of saving your soul and making you whole. The question is, will you believe it? Will you put your faith in Him and trust Him to do what He said?

- **"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."** (Jn 10:10)

"And immediately he received his sight." By the Lord's amazing grace, this man once was blind, but now he sees.

- Remember that it was Jesus Christ the Lord who gave you your spiritual sight and keep your eyes on Him. When the brethren and the preachers and the churches disappoint you, remember that Jesus Christ never disappoints.

"...and followed Jesus in the way."

- Now that Jesus has given you sight, follow Him in the way; a new and living way (Heb 10:20), the way of truth (2 Pet 2:2) and righteousness (2 Pet 2:21).