

Faith That Saves
 Mark 10: 46-52
 May 24, 2026
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⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang 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, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” ⁵² And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

A few weeks ago, I met a man from the Netherlands whose wife told me he knew biblical Greek. In my curiosity, I asked him how he interpreted John 1:1. And he told me that the author of the Gospel of John left out something for us to fill in. He explained the reason John 1:1 says “the Word was *a* god”, in his preferred translation, was because the indefinite article “a”, apparently, was left out by the biblical author. You see there are people who are *blind* to who Jesus is, sadly, even to some who claim to read the Bible. The last part of John 1:1 simply says “God was The Word”. The definite article “*The*” before the word “Word” dictates that “The Word” is the subject and “God” is the predicate in this sentence. That is why we have “The Word was God” in John 1:1 in the Bible.

- You and I were once blind in our sin. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that “*the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God*”.
 There was a time when you and I worshipped someone or something and it was not the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sin blinded us. The self was the main idol. The world was our attraction. The devil was our puppet master. But you heard the Gospel. You were convicted of your sin. You put faith in the crucified Christ. And you received grace and forgiveness of God. Since then we are both “heirs and beggars” as Martin Luther put it.

In this passage, we see a scene that is very familiar in some parts of the world.

- Growing up I would see beggars, lepers, blind and disabled people waiting outside of churches, lined up and waiting for alms after the service. Many a time, we would see

children begging at road intersections and at stop lights. That was a very sad to see. Children begging. Now things drastically improved over the years.

- Here in the PNW it is such a sad sight to see many people begging at our stoplights. We are glad and thankful to partner with the ministry called “Lord’s Cooker”, which provides a breakfast Saturday mornings in our parking lot outside of our church. The homeless, the needy, need something to fill their hungry stomachs. Filling their stomachs is the not their greatest need, however.
- Nothing surpasses your need for Jesus Christ. Nothing exceeds your need to be right with God. Nothing tops the need to be forgiven of your sins. Only Jesus can forgive you of your sins. Why? Because without being right with God, we will perish. “*Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish*”. Psalm 49: 20
What is the use of a life with all that this world has to offer and yet die without knowing your Maker or your Creator?

Here in verse 46, you see a blind beggar.

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

Very likely, this was a Jewish man who was poor and blind. He is named after his father Timaeus. His name is Bar-Timaeus. “*Bar*” is the word for *son* in Aramaic. Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road. And he hears the sound of a large crowd. He can only hear but cannot see. Why is the crowd there? Because there was someone very significant there. The crowd and the disciples were following Jesus!

I have *four* implications in light of this passage:

Implication#1: What have you *heard* about Jesus Christ?

This man inquired about the commotion. And he hears that Jesus was passing by. See how the Gospel of Luke puts it.

And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” Luke 18:36-37

You see this man *heard* about Jesus Christ. And he was told that Jesus was *passing* by. That was all that he needed to hear. This man must’ve been like “wait a minute did you just tell me that Jesus is *passing* by? That’s all I need to know”. He muted everything else. The news that Jesus was passing through Jericho was music to his ears.

He didn’t need to hear about anything else. I wonder how many times we miss the opportunity to hear what Jesus has to say. Week in and week out, the word of Christ, the Word of God is proclaimed and I wonder how many really pay attention.

In the parable of the Sower, Jesus taught his disciples that they are some *who see but never perceive, hear but never understand*. Mark 4:12

Have you heard that Jesus came to serve and his life as a ransom *and* will come back one day to judge the living and the dead?

Have you heard that Jesus is the God the Son and Son of the Living God?

Have you heard that Jesus forgives sinners?

Have you heard that Jesus restores relationships?

Have you heard that there is no love like the love of Jesus? The most wretched of sinners are not beyond Jesus' reach.

Are you convinced and impacted by these facts about Jesus Christ?

Has the Lord Jesus Christ touched and transformed our life?

Then you have an obligation to your family, friends, neighbors and the whole world. An obligation to share that there Jesus is the incomparable Savior. We as a church are not just a gathering on a Sunday. You and I have a message to tell other people about Christ, in love.

I think about the time when I grew up, going to church four times a week. And how many times would I hear about Jesus and yet I would not do anything (at least until my late teens).

But this man, Bartimaeus, what did he do?

Verse 47.

⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

He began to cry out say, with a loud voice, "Jesus, have mercy on me". Bartimaeus knows something about Jesus, and he knows what to say to get the attention of Jesus. This man, addresses Jesus, as "Son of David" what is that? This is a messianic title for Jesus. When Bartimaeus said "Son of David" he did not mean that Jesus is the biological son of a man called David. Jesus has no earthly father. Jesus was born by the power of God in the womb of Mary. Bartimaeus perhaps knew that Jesus was the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy and that a ruler would one day come, who has the capacity to heal and restore his life.

But as Bartimaeus cried out, the crowd, which is always fickle, annoying and dismissive of poor beggars like this man, tries to shut him up. But this man didn't care.

What does he do instead?

Implication#2: Never give up crying out to Jesus

Verse 48.

⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Bartimaeus knew this was the only opportunity to talk to Jesus. He had no idea that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to be crucified. And yet he wanted his life to be turned around.

This man was *ambitious* to meet the Lord Jesus Christ.

This man was *persistent* to be made well by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bartimaeus *believed* he had everything to gain by meeting Jesus Christ.

Are there times in your life where you feel you’re ready to give up?

Do you hear other voices in this world or rebuking you from calling out to Christ?

Implication #3: Don’t listen to voices that keep you from Christ!

Instead keep trusting Christ.

“The great fault of the children of God is, *they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere*. If they desire anything for God’s glory, they should pray until they get it” George Muller

This man’s *resolve* should be an encouragement to us. Let’s look a few places in the Bible of people crying out to God.

1. *I cried aloud to the LORD..* Psalm 3:4
2. *In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help..* Psalm 16:6
3. *Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!* Psalm 27:7
4. *To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy.* Psalm 30:8
5. *O LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.* Palm 88:1
6. Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me” Genesis 32:26
7. *The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.* Lamentations 3:25
8. *“always to pray and not lose heart”* Luke 18:1

So Bartimaeus keeps crying and Jesus takes notice.

Verse 49.

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”

- Notice Jesus actually *stopped*. The phrase indicates that Jesus *stood still*. Bartimaeus has Jesus' attention. Jesus was getting out of town. He's on his way out of Jericho. And yet Jesus interrupts his travel for this blind beggar. How gracious!
- Also, notice how the crowd treats this man. The crowd once dismissed and rebuked the man but now they appear to patronize him. They say, "Take heart. He is calling you". Bartimaeus does not need this crowd's affirmation. He knows what he wants. He wants face time with Jesus. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus stops to hear the cry of the needy, the desperate and the persistent. How wonderful!

What did Bartimaeus do when Jesus calls him? It gets even more fascinating.

Verse 50:

⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

This man threw his cloak. The word used here for "throwing off" is the same word used for casting out demons. "*Ekballo*" is the word. This man flung and tossed aside out his only blanket and coat. His cloak was his only covering in cold and used a blanket to sleep under. The cloak was perhaps his only possession. Contrast with the rich young man, who had all the resources and yet was unwilling to forsake one cent to follow Jesus. The young rich man was disheartened and sad when Jesus told him to give his wealth away. This blind beggar forsook the only possession he had - his cloak! This beggar saw the call to Jesus as the opportunity of a lifetime.

Implication#4: What are you willing to forsake to receive have Jesus?

Dear friend, what are you willing to let go in order to have Jesus Christ and his mercy?

Many people want all benefits of God but are unwilling to forsake nothing. That is sham Christianity. A travesty of true religion.

Now God doesn't want to take anything from you. You cannot outgive God. God is far more interested in your heart condition than the outward appearance.

In the Old Testament, when Amaziah was appointed king over Judah, he wanted to go to war against his enemies. So, what does he do? He forms an army from his own tribe Judah. And also hires one thousand soldiers from Israel for 100 talents of silver (about 75 pounds in weight). Judah and Israel were divided at that time and the people of Israel were given to idolatry and God was not pleased with them. Hear what a man of God told Amaziah.

“And Amaziah said to the man of God, “But what shall we do about the hundred talents that I have given to the army of Israel?” The man of God answered, “*The LORD is able to give you much more than this.*”. Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim to go home again. 2 Chronicles 25:9-10.

You want all of Christ? Be willing to forsake and renounce all that displeases God. Discipleship is renunciation to gain Christ.

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

“He is no fool to lose what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” Jim Elliot, Missionary Martyr to Ecuador.

Lastly what happened to Bartimaeus when he came and met Jesus?

Verses 51 through 52.

⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” ⁵² And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

This man knows what he wants and surely knows how to address Jesus with honor. He says “Rabbi, I want to see”. Surely, Bartimaeus would have said these words in his heart - *“Lord Jesus, I have heard about you. I have faith in you. I have been waiting for this opportunity to meet you. Give me eye sight”*.

And what Jesus does in response to his request is absolutely astounding!

In verse 52, Jesus tells this man to go his way. His faith has made him well. In the ESV the meaning of these words of Christ is little obscure. This is perfect tense and the word *well* is the word *saved*. Here is a plain way to say the words of Christ to this man – *“Your faith in me has saved you and will save you in the future”*.

The parallel passage in the Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus was *moved with compassion and touched his eyes*. Matthew 20:34. Apparently there were two men healed in the Gospel of Matthew.

And the result?

Immediately, Bartimaeus regained his sight. Instant miracle. Jesus heals with a word or a touch.

This man's faith in Jesus didn't just open his physical eyes. His eyes of faith were opened. This is saving faith. Desperate faith. Faith that persists. Faith that endures. His eyes were opened to see the Lord of Glory. His heart of darkness turned to light. How amazing!

James and John were setting their sights on the best seats but this man, Bartimaeus, wanted to see the best man in the world - Jesus Christ.

When you have the best man with you, who cares if you have the best seats.

We must use our eyes for great things of God.

1. Moses told the people of Israel. "*He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen*" Deuteronomy 10:21
2. God's Word is sweet like honey. Does your soul become glad and bright as you read his Word.? 1 Samuel 14:29.
3. "*Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things out of our law.*" Psalm 119:18
4. "*I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless*" Psalm 101:3
5. "*the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes*" Psalm 19:8
6. "*our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us*" Psalm 123:2

Jesus told Bartimaeus to go his way. Did he go his way?

No, Bartimaeus became a follower of Jesus. He literally followed him on the road.

In conclusion, Bartimaeus, the blind beggar *heard* about Jesus.

He never stopped crying out to Jesus.

He forsook his only possession to go to Jesus.

His blindness did not stop him to run to Jesus. This is extraordinary faith.

Jesus gave him his sight. What did he do with his sight?

He saw Jesus for the first time. And he became a follower of Jesus.

You see, not everyone who hears believes and follows Jesus.

Belief in Jesus requires a turning from your ways. Belief in Jesus is trusting in the person of Jesus alone. *Believing* implies *following*.

And when you *follow* Jesus, you can expect a wonderful, fascinating and a glorious future!

Your greatest breakthrough may be one step away. That step could be to forsake what your flesh wants to hold on to.

Whether it is a job situation, a family situation, a relationship situation, a marriage situation, a parenting situation, know that Jesus cares for you.

Will you cry out to Jesus?

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: Faith That Saves. Mark 10:46-52

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. What did Bartimaeus do before Jesus called him and made him well?
2. HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.
 - Do you believe Jesus Christ hears you when you cry to him? Why or why not? Hebrews 13:8. What voices or distractions keep you from seeking Christ?
 - What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

3. HEART For personal reflection: What will you forsake in order to seek Christ his favor?