

MARK 10:46-52 – ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM, A BLIND MAN IS HEALED!

1/30/16 Sat Morn Prayer – ptwente@gmail.com

Mar 10:46-52 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. [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] Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [49] So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." [50] And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. [51] So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." [52] Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

- Jesus' prophetic, public ministry is ending; He is on His way to the cross at Jerusalem
- He is willing to compassionately heal a blind man
- When the blind hears!! He cries out – Jesus, Son of David, have mercy me!!!

HOW BOLD? HOW SPECIFIC? HOW URGENT? HOW PERSISTENT ARE YOUR PRAYERS?

[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!"

- The blind man knew what he needed from Jesus – mercy! He didn't come thinking that God owed him. **All he wanted from Jesus was mercy.**

[48] Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

- Blind Bartimaeus didn't have much tact, but **he did have persistence and determination**. People tried to shut him up, but they couldn't because **he really wanted a touch from Jesus**.
- The **persistent and energetic nature** of Bartimaeus' prayer is a good example of prayer. He wasn't discouraged because no one led him to Jesus. Those who told him to stay away did not discourage him.
- **He is desperate – note his persistence – same of the woman with the issue of blood; also the Syro Phoenician woman!**
- "Take the gates of heaven and shake them with thy vehemence, as though thou wouldst pull them up post and bar and all. Stand at Mercy's door, and take no denial. Knock, and knock, and knock again, as though thou wouldst shake the very spheres, but what thou wouldst obtain an answer to thy cries. 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.' Cold prayers never win God's ear. Draw thy bow with thy full strength, if thou wouldst send thy arrow up so high as heaven." (Spurgeon)

[49] So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer (tharsei). Rise, He is calling you."

- **Tharsei**: (used on 6 occasions)
- *Mt. 9:2* (paralytic carried to Jesus for healing) – "**Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you**"
- *Mt. 9:22* (woman with 12 year issue of blood) – "**Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well**"
- *Mt. 14:27* (Jesus walking on the Sea- "*have courage*") – "**Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid**"
- *Mk. 6:50* (Jesus walking on the Sea- "*have courage*") – "**Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid**"
- *Mk. 10:49* (blind Bartimaeus) – "**Be of good cheer, rise, He is calling you**"
- *Luke 23:43? – 8:48* (woman with 12 year issue of blood) – "**Daughter, be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well, go in peace**"
- *Jn. 16:33* (Jesus to disciples- "*I have overcome the world*") – "**but have courage, I have overcome the world.**"
- *Acts 23:11* (Paul in Jerusalem – gentiles- "*take courage*")! – "**Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome**"

[50] And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

- Not to be held back; *Heb 12:1* "*let us lay aside every weight and sin that so easily ensnares us*"
- Have you cast away all outer garments, that are holding you back? Fearful? – perfect love casts out fear!

- He should **throw away the garments of his own righteousness** - he should **rise speedily; run with joy; have full faith in the power of Jesus**, and **cast himself entirely upon His mercy!**

[51] So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

- It might seem that the need of Bartimaeus was obvious. Yet Jesus had a deliberate purpose in the question. There was real power in both the asking and in the answer of Jesus. God may ask us the same question, and we should be able to articulate an answer that glorifies Him.
- **Jesus asks, what do you want Me to do for you!!! Great question to each of us! Opportunity to express himself and give evidence of his own faith** – earlier the rich young ruler wanted eternal life.
- It was the same question He had asked James, John, and Salome, *Mark 10:36*. But Jesus wanted to **give the man opportunity to express himself and give evidence of his own faith. What did he really believe Jesus could do for him?**

The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

- Notice the response: The title "*Rabboni*" (**My Lord, my Master**) is a strengthened form of 'Rabbi,' and means 'my lord,' 'my master.' **Only Mary Magdalene makes this as well, demonstrating personal faith!**
- The specific nature of Bartimaeus' request is a good example for our prayers. "*Have mercy on me*" is general, but his prayer moved from the general to the specific request, "*that I may receive my sight.*"
- "Rest assured that those are **the best prayers in all respects, if they be earnest and sincere, which go most directly to the point.** You know there is a way of praying in the closet, and praying in the family, in which you do not ask for anything. You say a great many good things, introduce much of your own experience, review the doctrines of grace very thoughtfully, but you do not ask for anything in particular. Such prayer is always uninteresting to listen to, and I think it must be rather tedious to those who offer it." (Spurgeon)

*[52] Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well (*sozo* – save/free from disease)."*

- The faith of the blind man **saved him** because it was a **specific kind of faith.**
- **Same exact phrase as given to the woman healed with the 12 year issue of blood!!**
- **What would He say is your faith?** "*...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*" – Luke 18:8

And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

- **Now healed and saved, blind Bartimaeus then followed Jesus.** The way of Jesus became his way. This was especially significant when we consider where Jesus was going at this time - to Jerusalem where a cross waited for Him.
- First Jesus told Bartimaeus, go your way. Then, Bartimaeus followed Jesus. **He made Jesus' way his own way**, and was follower of Him. Bartimaeus must have figured, "Now that I have my sight, I always want to look upon Jesus."
- **Are you totally committed to following Him and Him, alone?**

SUMMARY:

- **How often is your prayer, "Jesus, have mercy on me"?**
- **How fervent and persistent are our prayers?**
- **As Jesus is calling us, saying "Be of good cheer", what is our response? Casting aside anything holding us back?**
- **What is your response when Jesus asks, "What do you want Me to do for you"?**
- **Is your answer, "Rabboni (My Lord, my Master), that I may receive my sight"!**
- **After His answer are we following Him – all the way to the cross?**

Open Our Eyes, Lord

Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus

To reach out and touch Him And say that we love Him

Open our ears, Lord And help us to listen

Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus (2X)

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