

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 20, 2017

Mark 10:46-52
The Merciful Son of David

I. The beggar's request (10:46-48)

A. The beggar introduced (10:46)

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.

- “And they came to Jericho”
 - Jesus and a crowd of Jews have been on a journey to Jerusalem for passover
 - ~15 miles from Jerusalem
 - Jericho to Jerusalem was about 3,300 feet increase in elevation
 - Jericho 846 feet below sea level
 - Jerusalem 2,474 feet above sea level
 - Jericho was the last stop before Jerusalem
- “And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd”
 - This confirms the occasion of a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover
 - Not just Jesus and His disciples but also a large crowd journeying to Jerusalem
- “Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus,”
 - We are introduced to the other main character besides Jesus
 - He is blind
 - Not sure how or when he became blind
 - He is a beggar
 - Disabled and handicapped often embraced a life of begging
 - This was especially true if their family situation was not helpful
 - Also, the government did not offer programs to take care of the disabled
 - He is named Bartimaeus
 - In Aramaic, Bartimaeus literally means “son of Timaeus”
 - Remember, this may make perfect sense to Mark’s Roman Gentile audience

- Mark is the only one of the synoptic gospels to name the beggar as “Bartimaeus” among the synoptic gospels
 - Could this be because of Bartimaeus’ prominent role in the early church?
- “was sitting by the roadside”
 - If you lived life as a beggar where would you beg?
 - By the roadside leaving Jericho and heading to Jerusalem is probably a good spot
 - This was a high traffic area for begging

B. The beggar interjects (10:47)

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!”*

- “And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth”
 - Somehow the word got out that Jesus had walked by
 - Maybe he asked aloud about all the commotion and was told that it was Jesus of Nazareth by someone in the crowd
 - It’s possible that he literally just overheard someone say, “It is Jesus of Nazareth”
 - This information launched Bartimaeus into action
 - It is as if Bartimaeus was ready for this moment
- “He began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’”
 - In the midst of this crowd, Bartimaeus cries out
 - Implying there was no hesitation
 - He actually began to cry out
 - Implying there was determination in his continued yelling
 - He calls out to Jesus with a specific title that we have not seen thus far in Mark’s gospel
 - “Jesus, Son of David”
 - He does not repeat, “Jesus of Nazareth”
 - This was probably the safe or neutral title for Jesus
 - Not much controversy, just a factual description about Jesus
 - Instead, he says, “Jesus, Son of David”
 - Son of David was a Messianic title
 - It connected Jesus to all the promises that God made to David about a King ruling with all authority over all the earth (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Psalm 89; Isa. 11:1-9; Jer. 23:5-6; Ezek. 34:23-24)

- **2 Samuel 7:12-13** “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.”
- **Psalm 89:20-23** “I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, 21 so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. 22 The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. 23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.”
- Bartimaeus must have heard the reports of Jesus from others
- He had obviously made up his mind about Jesus
 - Not simply that Jesus was a nice guy
 - Not simply that Jesus was a man of wisdom
 - Not simply that Jesus was a miracle worker
 - But that Jesus was in fact the Messiah
- He also asks for mercy
 - He was not only convinced of Jesus’ power and Messianic authority
 - He was convinced that Jesus could in fact help his desperate situation
 - **Isaiah 35:4-5** “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’ 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;”

C. The beggar insists (10:48)

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

- “And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.”

- Bartimaeus receives no approval from the crowd in his attempt to contact Jesus
 - This continues to reveal the society’s perspective toward the physically disabled and beggars
- They were actually rebuking Bartimaeus
- “But he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’”
 - Such was this man’s faith that no one would be stopping him from securing Jesus’ attention and listening ear
- This man displayed two critical aspects of biblical faith that pleases God
 - **Hebrews 11:6** “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
 - Bartimaeus clearly believes that God exists, even in a life situation that many would use as an example to question the existence of God
 - Bartimaeus clearly believes God will reward those who seek Him

II. The Messiah’s response (10:49-52)

A. The summons (10:49-50)

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.

- “And Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’”
 - The persistence caused Jesus to stop His movement
 - Jesus must have been far away because He was not able to call Bartimaeus, Himself
- “And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.’”
 - The crowd shifts from rebuking the man to helping Jesus call the man
 - The crowd calms Bartimaeus by telling him to “take heart” and “get up” because Jesus had heard his cry and was now calling him
- “And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.”
 - Bartimaeus allowed no time to be wasted in coming to Jesus
 - One’s cloak was fairly valuable if you were a blind beggar
 - It might be the very container by which you collected money as people gave their various donations

- It also was the main source to remain warm amid cold weather as a beggar
- Perhaps this was similar to the disciples leaving their fishing nets to follow Jesus and in the same way, Bartimaeus left his cloak to follow Jesus
- More than likely he came to Jesus through the assistance of the crowd

B. The setup (10:51)

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."*

- "And Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'"
 - In their face to face interaction, Jesus asks an odd question
 - Could Jesus not tell that this man was blind and thus a beggar?
 - Instead, He asks a question demanding an obvious answer
 - Why?
 - This seems to be another instance where Jesus is seizing the opportunity to highlight someone's faith
 - Remember the woman who had been sick with bleeding for 12 years?
 - Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" after she made her way through the crowd to secretly touch Him in order to receive healing
 - Jesus singled her out so that the crowd could notice the true faith of the woman
 - In a similar way, Jesus is highlighting the faith of Bartimaeus
 - Bartimaeus could have asked for more money or to find his family
 - Instead, he asks for the impossible since he is convinced of who Jesus is and what Jesus can do
- "And the blind man said to him, 'Rabbi, let me recover my sight.'"
 - Now, Bartimaeus calls Jesus, "Rabbi" which would be another sign of the respect he has for Jesus
 - He asks that his sight would be "recovered" or the NASB says, "regained"
 - It is possible that this man became blind at some point in his life so he was asking Jesus for ability to see again

- But, to “recover” one’s sight is also used in John 9 of the man who was born blind
 - Thus, we are uncertain of Bartimaeus’ health records and history
- Regardless, it is clear that Bartimaeus displays the faith that Jesus was prompting
 - He asks for Jesus, the Son of David and true Rabbi to do the impossible
 - He was asking for that which would be impossible for him to accomplish on his own
 - He was completely entrusting himself to Jesus

C. The sight (10:52)

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.

- “And Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way;’”
 - After this simple interaction and display of faith, Jesus tells Bartimaeus that he can go and depart
 - Jesus has decided to grant Bartimaeus his request
 - Jesus also explains why He has granted the request
- ““your faith has made you well.””
 - Jesus declares that the faith of Bartimaeus has allowed him to recover his sight
- “And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.”
 - As usual, the healing was an immediate healing for Bartimaeus by the power of Jesus
 - Bartimaeus’ response of faith leads him to fall in line and join those following Jesus and making their way to Jerusalem
 - The genuine faith of Bartimaeus resulted in a commitment to follow Jesus immediately