

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Bartimaeus"

By Jerry Cummings, Pastor of Living Hope Fellowship, Norton

In the New Testament in the Gospel of Mark chapter 10, vss. 46-52, we read a story about a blind man named Bartimaeus and how his eyes were opened by Jesus. I find some wonderful truths in this event.

We see that blindness was the issue that defined his whole life, in that he was simply known as "blind Bartimaeus."

Bartimaeus could not see, but he could hear, and his healing started with hearing some things. He heard people talk about a man from Galilee who had come on the scene, and was saying some new things, and healing many people, including the opening of blind eyes. Imagine how his heart was stirred as he heard these stories of healing from the same condition that he was in. So in our lives, God's answer often starts with a spark of hope through the testimony of what God has done in other lives. How important it is that we share our stories of God's great interventions in our lives.

The next thing Bartimaeus heard was a crowd coming, and the report that it was Jesus coming his way in the middle of this crowd. The very man that was in all the reports of healing was going to pass right before him and his blind eyes. The fact of what Jesus had done for others, and the fact that Jesus was passing by, spoke one word very loudly, "OPPORTUNITY!" So then his need, fueled by reports about Jesus, turned into a cry,

"Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" Likewise in our lives, our need must turn to hope, and our hope into a cry to the Lord.

This cry was annoying to the people there that day, to everyone except Jesus. The people told the man to be quiet, but Jesus stopped

and called for the man. When Jesus hears the mix of desperation and faith expressed in a cry, it gets His whole attention. It is interesting that the man came to Jesus with full expectation. We know this because it says he threw off his cloak and came to Jesus. If

there was any thought of not being healed, he would certainly have hung on to his cloak. His need had turned to hope, and his hope to a cry, and his cry to expectation.

But when Bartimaeus had made his way to Jesus, he was met with an unexpected question. Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The need was obvious, but had not been specifically stated up to that point. It was important to Jesus that he say it. "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." There is power in the firm declaration of what it is that we want from God. "I want to live." "I want to be free." "I want to be healed." "I want to know you." As Jesus said elsewhere, "Ask what you want and it will be done for you."

Finally Jesus opened Bartimaeus' eyes, and declares, "your faith has made you well." If we had been there we probably would have said to him, "You've been healed by God's power, now give Him praise." That would be a good thing to say, but Jesus takes this opportunity to point out to the man and the crowd, that God's healing power had been accessed through faith. What did his faith look like? It looked like someone who heard reports, and believed them, and then this hope turned into a cry, and the cry into expectation, and finally the clear statement of what he desired from God.

Make Your Move

Life is a trade-off, sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose. Nevertheless, when we keep the faith in God's will, we find that from an apparent loss we may gain the knowledge of a hidden asset. In Nehemiah 13:2 we read... "Yet, our God turned the curse into a blessing." Do you feel that you have experienced an unjust loss? Are you frustrated that you haven't attained what you long for? Attend your house of worship this week and praise Him for His wisdom...and trust Him for He knows what you truly need.



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Weekly Scripture Reading

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Genesis 48:1-22

Genesis 49:29-50:26

Exodus 1:1-22

Exodus 2:1-25

Exodus 3:1-22

Exodus 4:1-31

Exodus 5:1-21

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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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(316) 425-6767, blacktopnationals.com

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(316) 263-0884, wichitaorpheum.com

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(620) 221-3250, wvfest.com

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