

# STONE HARBOR

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**Topic:** Discipleship  
**Text:** Mark 10:46-52  
**Series:** Who Jesus Is & Why He Matters  
**Section:** What Jesus Taught His Disciples  
**Title:** By Giving A Blind Man His Sight

OT Reading: Joshua 6

## ***INTRODUCTION***

Good things come in small packages. Today we have a small passage that brings great benefit to us. It is the story of Bartimaeus, a blind man. Really it is the story of Jesus healing him. It is a story that captures Jesus doing and being just what you'd expect of the savior of the world. Let's read Mk 10:46-52.

## **I. The Healing Itself**

### ***A. The Place of the Healing was Jericho***

#### **1. Jericho's Rich OT History**

First city God miraculously delivered to His People as He brought them into the land He had promised to give them. God brought down the walls of a fortified city without any human help but rather in a demonstration of man's weakness and God's power as the ark of the covenant the symbolic presence of God circles the city. The wondering Jews with no land have land first in the victory at Jericho. God's kingdom is advanced.

#### **2. Jericho In this Event...**

- becomes again the place of God's miraculous deliverance where God the Son demonstrates His divine power in the context of human weakness. The blind man is delivered from blindness into sight. God's kingdom is advanced.

- Jericho, the OT place of conquest according to God's plan is here the place of healing according to God's continuing plan. But we will say more about that a bit later. For now just note that Jericho was a place rich in meaning and Mark's readers would have been wondering what God is up to there this time.

## ***B. The One Healed was Bartimaeus***

### **1. Son of Timaeus – (Aramaic)**

Many think that the mention of his name probably indicates that he became known to the Christian community in the early church. Can you imagine getting to know Bartimaeus and hearing his story of how Jesus gave him back his sight.

### **2. Blind**

### **3. Beggar**

### **4. Persistent, even desperate – began to call out, kept crying out**

### **5. Believed Jesus was Able to Heal**

### **6. Fortunate**

### **7. Responsive – throwing... jumped up...**

### **8. Respectful – Rabbouni...**

### **9. Aware of his needs and willing to ask for help from Jesus – “I want to regain my sight...”**

There is much commendable and instructive about him. In fact, so much so I included his cry for help as our memory and meditation verse because I think we should likewise call out: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. It is the call of one who recognizes that he must come to the lord as a child with nothing to offer and everything to gain. It is the call that allows Jesus to be the one who did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Call it out. Even now, would you say it together with me? Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Commit it to memory. Fold this card and carry it with you all week. Make this call your prayer. Realize your need for His mercy and call on Him. Let's look at who Bartimaeus called on.

## C. The Healer was Jesus

### 1. Jesus the Nazarene

- It is safe to assume that Bartimaeus had heard of this Jesus from the town of Nazareth who had the ability to heal.
- Jesus of course was born in Bethlehem, but raised in Nazareth. Mat 2:22-23 records that Jesus as a baby came to live there when Joseph...
  - *"...being warned by God in a dream, ...departed for the regions of Galilee, and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene.""*
- Matthew brings out that Jesus' upbringing in Nazareth is a fulfillment of prophecy.
- Mark also identifies Nazareth as Jesus' "home town" (Mk 6:1).
- Recall that Jesus has healed before and become so famous that the crowds of people who came to receive healing from Him had become something to manage (cf. Mark 1:29-39). In fact several times Jesus had told people He healed not to tell others. He did not want His fame to hinder His preaching of the Gospel, because that is what He came for (Mark 1:29). And I do not know if Bartimaeus knew it or not but certainly Mark's readers knew that Jesus had already healed a blind man in Bethsaida (8:22-26).
- So Jesus the Nazarene had become widely known as someone who could heal. Interestingly, Bartimaeus calls out to Him not as Jesus the Nazarene but as...

### 2. Jesus, Son of David

Son of David had become a title applied to the Messiah who God had promised would come to save. Bartimaeus' repeated cry calling Jesus "Son of David" was a public pronouncement that Jesus was God's Messiah. The Messiah Would Be the Son of David

#### Jer 23:5-6

- <sup>5</sup>"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD,  
"When I will raise up for **David** a righteous Branch;  
And **He will reign as king** and act wisely  
And do justice and righteousness in the land.
- <sup>6</sup>"In His days Judah will be **saved**,  
And Israel will dwell securely;  
And this is **His name** by which He will be called,  
**'The LORD our righteousness.'**

### **Psalm 89**

<sup>3</sup>"I have made a covenant with My chosen;  
I have sworn to **David** My servant,  
<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your seed forever**  
**And build up your throne to all generations."**

### **Isah 9**

<sup>6</sup>For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Even in the Gospel of Mark we see that the Jewish people expected the Messiah to be the Son of David and establish the kingdom of God that would have no end.

### **Mark 11:9-10 – Triumphal Entry**

<sup>9</sup> Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting:  
"Hosanna!  
BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;  
<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David;  
Hosanna in the highest!"

### **Mark 12:35-37**

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple,  
"How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?  
<sup>36</sup> "David himself said in the Holy Spirit,  
'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,  
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,  
UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET."  
<sup>37</sup> "David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?"  
And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

**In addition, the OT bore witness that the Messiah would bring healing**

### **Isa 35:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Say to those with anxious heart,  
"Take courage, fear not  
Behold, **your God will come** with vengeance;  
The recompense of God will come,  
But **He will save you.**"

<sup>5</sup> Then **the eyes of the blind will be opened**  
And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then the lame will leap like a deer,  
And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy  
For waters will break forth in the wilderness  
And streams in the Arabah.

This passage was given by Jesus to John in Lk 7 as the answer to John's question if Jesus was the Messiah (see Lk 7:22-23).

### **3. Jesus, Captain Compassion**

"...for even on the way to Jerusalem Jesus had time for a man who appealed for his help in faith." Lane p.388

#### ***D. The Healing***

##### **1. An Act of Mercy**

"Jesus, Son of David<sup>i</sup>, have **mercy** on me!

##### **2. Face to Face with Jesus, Making Request**

Bartimaeus could not see Him but he knew Jesus was there and he knew He could give him sight.

##### **3. Jesus Displayed No Show Just "Go!"**

No touching, spitting, lifting up..., Jesus just told Him, "**Go; your faith has made you well.**"

##### **4. Jesus Commends Bartimaeus' Faith**

- Where did Bartimaeus get that faith? I want some of that!
- I wonder if Bartimaeus' blindness and dependence on the goodness of others for his own survival had perhaps been used to prepare him to be able to simply trust that this Nazarene who had healed others could and would heal Him as well.
- What's the bottom line on the source of Bartimaeus' faith? Jesus gave Him his faith!
- Faith is believing in what you can't see and he literally couldn't see anything.
- Listen from verse 49 as Jesus graciously fueled his faith: [read from 49 showing the building hope]

- Jesus commends Bartimaeus' faith as being instrumental in his healing, and from this vantage point we can see how Bart's faith was really the faith that Jesus Himself planted and grew in his heart.
- ILLUS. This is sort of like a mother giving her child an allowance which the child uses to buy her a mother's day gift – "I bought it myself." And the mom totally receives it as that. I get the feeling that's the way we come upon our faith.
- Eph 2:8-9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves... it is the gift of God..."

So with this understanding of the healing itself, let's look next at ...

## II. The Healing in God's Big Plan of Redemption

### A. God's Grand Plan -- Restoration

#### 1. Restoration from Brokenness

##### a) Restoration in General

- Repairing what was tarnished to what was intended.
- ILLUS. Think of restoring a car that has been through one big crash and a whole series of unskilled attempts to fix it. In honor of our home town celebrity, think of a Grand Torino. We are that car that was wrecked, and many including ourselves have tried to fix us; and many have come to the inevitable truth that only God is up to the job. Like Kelci's car that finally had to get fixed at Brad's after first being worked on by another less qualified and tooled.

##### b) God's Restoration of Fallen Creation

God is restoring what was tarnished when man rebelled against Him to what He intended.

##### *(1) The Original*

- Pictures before the crash (Before the Wreck)
- It was good, it was very good...
- Adam and Eve walked with God in the flourishing garden He provided for them

**(a) Rest, Shabbat, Sabbath**

**(b) Closeness/Intimacy/Communion with God**

**(c) Noteworthy regarding our passage – In God's original creation man had the ability to perceive God**

- God spoke with them
- Genesis 2 records how God would make an animal, bring it to Adam and he would name it. What a picture, God allowing Man to help him name all that was created.

## **(2) The Fallen**

- Pictures of the wreck.
- As we read Gen 3 we can hear the screech of the tires and the impact. Kind of like Robyn's car that was just hit.
- The serpent deceived. Eve and then Adam bought the subtle lie.
- Perception changed.
- 2:25 they were naked and not ashamed. 3:7 after they exercised their autonomy from God in disobedience to Him the Scripture says, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings."
- What they couldn't see before the Fall (shame of nakedness) they now saw; and what they saw before the Fall (unashamed nakedness as the perfect handiwork of God) they could no longer see.
- Perception changed.
- They heard God walking in the garden (3:8) and hid from Him. This is tragic and sad. They were now afraid (10) of God. Then the blame shifting started: Adam pointing to "the woman who You gave me...;" and Eve pointing to the serpent.

### **(a) Rest was Replaced by Unrest**

Woman: In pain...

Man: By the sweat of your brow...

### **(b) Communion was Replaced by Separation from God**

God drove them outside of the Garden to the East (3:24)

## **(3) The Restoration Process**

- Pictures of the work (the restoration process)
- First the Promise of God: Gen 3:15; Gen 12:3...
- Then the Law / Old Covenant / Sacrifices / Tabernacle / Moses / Priesthood
- Finally Jesus who fulfilled it all

#### **(4) The Restored**

- Pictures of the completed restoration.

##### **(a) Rest**

##### **(b) Communion – And not just with, but in**

- God was WITH man in the Garden and now is even IN man by the indwelling Spirit.
- Ability to “see” = perceive God

### ***B. Blindness is a Tarnish that Needs Restoring***

Blindness is a symptom and symbol of our tarnished state (our separation, estrangement, distance... ) from which God is restoring us.

#### **1. Physical Blindness**

- All physical hardships and imperfections point to the Fall and our imperfect relation to God and His creation.
- Bartimaeus was physically blind – he could not see natural realities.
- On top of the physical blindness that afflicts some, we all are afflicted by...

#### **2. Spiritual Blindness**

- Inability to see = perceive spiritual realities.
- Pastor Kit Culver says, “Because of what transpired in Eden human beings must be enabled to “see what is not seen” and to “hear what is not heard.” (Sacred Space p.1)
- [Deuteronomy 29:4](#) -- "Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.
- [Ezekiel 12:2](#) -- "Son of man, you live in the midst of the rebellious house, who have eyes to see but do not see, ears to hear but do not hear; for they are a rebellious house.
- 2 Kings 6:1-17 – Elisha the prophet had angered the king who sent his army to apprehend Elisha.  
14 He sent horses and chariots and a great army there,  
and they came by night and surrounded the city.  
15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early  
and gone out, behold,  
an army with horses and chariots was circling the city.  
And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we  
do?"  
16 So he answered, "Do not fear,  
for those who are with us are more than those who are with  
them."

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see " And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- Elisha's servant could not see the spiritual reality of the fighting forces of God – until God opened his eyes.

### ***C. Jesus the Ultimate Restorer***

**1. Jesus is in the Process of Restoring all things to God's Design**

**2. As a part of this He Restored the Man's Physical Ability to See Natural Reality**

**3. As another part, He Restores Our Ability to See Spiritual Reality – including truth about Him**

- [Acts 16:14](#)

[*First Convert in Europe* ] A woman named **Lydia**, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

- Healing of Bartimaeus is in character and what we would expect of God's Messiah come to save and restore.
- Although this physical healing was huge in the life of Bartimaeus, we can hear this account in the Gospel of Mark and know that Jesus, the promised Son of David, was on His way through Jericho going towards Jerusalem to bring about the greater restoration – the reconciliation of man to God. So this isolated healing that demonstrates that Jesus is the Messiah has huge implications for you and me. Let's look at some of these for our last point.

## **III. The Healings' Implications for You and Me**

### ***A. When It is His Will, Jesus Still Heals***

- The way I phrased this implies that sometimes God does not heal on our timetable. Such was the case for Paul as he learned that God's grace was sufficient for him. (2 Cor 12:7)
- So cry out for healing and be content with His grace.

## ***B. Jesus is the One God has Sent to Save Us from Our Spiritual Blindness and Our Separation from God***

**1. We have seen that the “Son of David” title points to Jesus as the Messiah, God who Saves**

**2. We have seen that The Miracles of Jesus Attest that He is the Christ**

**3. We have seen the positive effect of Jesus’ being with Bartimaeus**

- From a blind sidelined beggar having just heard about Jesus from a distance to a seeing active receiver of His mercy actually walking with Him as He carries out God’s plan of restoring fallen humanity to Himself...

**4. The Question that Remains**

- Have you cried out, Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me? And then jumped up and come to Him making request that He would restore you from a distanced awareness of God to a close intimate relationship with Him?
- If not do it in your heart right now!
- If so, do it again. Jesus is not looking for you to grow up and stop needing Him. He is looking to complete the work in you by means of the same Spirit with which He started the work. (Gal 3:1 ff)
- Having begun by the Spirit are you now trying to be perfected in the flesh?
- For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:6)

### ***Conclusion***

- This week’s personal lesson for me: The way we partner with God in His work of restoring us to Himself is by relying on His Spirit to help us know Him as we pay careful attention to His self revelation in the pages of Scriptures. This is the hearing and faith of Gal 3.
- God does the work of our spiritual transformation unto Christ likeness:
  - from distance to closeness,
  - from blindness to seeing,
  - from unrest to rest
- For example, He sanctifies us by the truth and His word is truth (John 17:17), but the way He does it is through His Word.
- Know that God wants you in close communion with Him – if you are feeling estranged you don’t need to stay there!

- Know that God sent Jesus to restore you to Himself, that's what He was up to on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem.
- Know that Bartimaeus was really healed and His healing really did point to Jesus as the Messiah who restores all that was tarnished in the Fall.
- Know that you are not tarnished beyond His ability to restore.
- Know that Jesus has called for you just like He called for Bartimaeus.
  
- So let's stand up.
- Get your balance and put your hands on the chair ahead of you.
- Now close your eyes and I'd like to pray for you.

## Bibliography

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<sup>i</sup> Jesus, Son of David – “son of David” was a designation for the Messiah see Mark 12:35ff and Hurtado’s cited extra-biblical Jewish writings. Other NT references claimed Jesus as Messiah and used His Davidic descent as part of the argument (Rom 1:1-4; Mat 1:1; 12:23; 2 Tim 2:8; Rev 3:7; 22:16). Mark regarded Jesus as God’s Messiah/Christ (Mark 1:1; 8:29; 14:61-62). Hurtado points out that even though Mark understands Jesus as the Messiah, the common Jewish view of the Messiah still did not yet explain all that Jesus was. So, just as Peter knew that Jesus was the Christ (8:29) and did not yet fully understand the nature of the Christ and His mission (suffering servant substitutionary sacrifice...); so too Bartemaueus, correct in his acclamation of Jesus as the Son of David = Messiah, did not yet fully know of the nature or His mission as Christ. It was a correct designation that neither Peter nor Bartimaueus would understand until Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected and had ascended sending His Holy Spirit upon the church. That being said, we who stand on this side of the cross can and should appreciate God’s plan of redemption through the Davidic Kingdom as seen in prophecy: Isa 35:4-5 and 61:1 – cf. also: Is 11:1ff; Jer 23:5f.; Ezek 34:23f (cited by Lane p. 387) and 2 Sam 7:1ff; Psalm 89; Isaiah 9:1-7, 11:1-16, 55:1-5; Jer 23:1-6, 33:14-26; Ez 34:1-31, 37:15-28; Hosea 3:1-5; Amos 9:11-15 (cited by Culver p. 85 of SS)