

Theme: Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46–52

⁴⁶ 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.

Introduction

At this point in Mark 10, Jesus’s final journey to Jerusalem is nearly complete. He is travelling from Jericho to Jerusalem (a journey of approximately eighteen miles, the majority in desert-like conditions). This is the same road that the Good Samaritan took in Luke 10:30–37. Note that Jesus also heals a blind man in Mark 8:22–26.

Take a moment to read the parallel passages in Matthew 20:29–34 and Luke 18:35–43. Note the similarities and the differences between them all.¹

Consider

10:46. How does Mark describe Bartimaeus? What is he doing when Jesus and the disciples walk by? What does this tell you about the type of life he likely lived?

10:47. How does Bartimaeus respond when Jesus is walking by? How would he have known that it was Jesus? What do you think Bartimaeus knew or had heard about Jesus based on the way he responds?

10:48. How does the crowd respond to Bartimaeus when he calls out to Jesus? What does Bartimaeus do in response? What does this tell us about Bartimaeus?

What does Bartimaeus call Jesus? “_____ of _____.” What is his request? What does his request indicate about what He believes about Jesus?

10:49. Note that Jesus stopped and stood still when called. What is significant about this? What do we learn about Jesus? (Notice both

Matthew and Luke include this detail in their accounts as well.)

10:50. How does Bartimaeus respond when the crowd tells him Jesus is calling for him?

10:51. What does Jesus ask Bartimaeus? Why do you think Jesus asks him such an obvious question?

Note: “Rabboni” is a Jewish term that means “my master” or “my teacher” and was a sign of respect.

10:52. According to Jesus, what made Bartimaeus well?

What does it mean that Bartimaeus was made well?

*Note: the word translated “made [you] well” is the Greek word *sōzō*, which means “to preserve or rescue” and is most often translated as “save.”*

How does Bartimaeus respond to being healed by Jesus?

¹ Note: by this time there was likely an “old Jericho” (destroyed in the book of Joshua) and a “new Jericho” (approximately one mile south of the Old Testament city). This may account for the difference between the gospel writers regarding the location of the blind man: did Jesus and the disciples encounter him as were leaving Jericho (Matthew and Mark) or as they were coming to Jericho (Luke)? It is also possible that the blind man was sitting between the residential and municipal districts of Jericho. Thus, the blind man could accurately be said to be located either as they were coming or going. Differences between gospel accounts do not imply that any gospel writer was inaccurate.

Ask Yourself

How would I have responded if I was among the crowd when Bartimaeus called out to Jesus? How do I respond to those in need around me?

Bartimaeus asked the Lord for mercy, a word which has often been defined as “not getting what I deserve.” In what ways do I need mercy

from the Lord? In what areas have I been shown mercy?

What are some specific ways that I can show mercy and kindness to those around me?

When he was healed, Bartimaeus responded by immediately following Jesus. How has God’s saving grace in my life motivated me to follow Jesus?

Cross References

Matthew 20:29–34

²⁹ Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. ³⁰ And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

³¹ Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

³² So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

³³ They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.” ³⁴ So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

Luke 18:35–43

³⁵ Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. ³⁶ And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. ³⁷ So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

³⁸ And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

³⁹ Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him,

⁴¹ saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”

⁴² Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” ⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise to God.

Luke 10:30–37

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

³⁷ And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Mark 8:22–26

²² Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. ²³ So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.

²⁴ And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.”

²⁵ Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. ²⁶ Then He sent him away to his house, saying, “Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.”