

“Lessons from Jesus: Be Encouraged! Get Up! Go...”

Mark 10:46-52

10/27/2024

*(Show Title Slide)*

Try to put yourself into the scene here...

*(Show Map Slide)*

Jesus and his disciples are on their way from Galilee  
To Jerusalem

It's Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem

But the disciples are not picking that up

Even though Jesus keeps on predicting his passion

His upcoming death to them

*(Show Jericho Fountain Slide)*

Their journey takes them through Jericho

The oldest city in the world

As Jesus and his traveling companions enter into Jericho,

There is a blind man who learns that it's **Jesus of Nazareth**

Who is walking by in that crowd

*(Show Bartimaeus Slide)*

<sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" <sup>48</sup> Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!"

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward."

— Mark 10:47-49

And you just know that **something good** is going to happen...

We hear today's lesson as we finish with the final verses  
of the tenth chapter of Mark

In recent weeks, we have learned some lessons from Jesus...

*(Show Citizens of God's Kingdom Slide)*

We've learned that to be citizens of God's kingdom,

We are to enter it with childlike trust

Having faith that it's **not us** who earn God's love

But grace is **all about God** and what God does for us

*(Show Obtaining Eternal Life Slide)*

We've learned that to obtain eternal life

It goes beyond doing all the right things

And depends on having a

deep, personal, redeeming relationship with God

*(Show To Be a G.O.A.T. Slide)*

And we've learned that the key to being great in God's kingdom

Is not by showing off or ordering others around,

But by serving others

*(Show Bartimaeus Slide)*

And this morning we move from

just learning the lessons Jesus is teaching

to seeing God's love in action...

And its results

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward."

They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you."

<sup>50</sup> Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

— Mark 10:49-51

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Again, put yourself in the scene...

This blind man has just jumped up and ran to Jesus.

Try to picture that

What emotions might this blind man be feeling?

Expectation?

Hope?

Excitement?

Anxiety?

<sup>51</sup> Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

And now, put **yourself** in front of Jesus

And hear Jesus asking **you**,

"What do you want me to do for you?"

It's just you and Jesus

The disciples and the crowd just disappear into the background

What is your request?

What do you long for?

What might hinder your request?

<sup>50</sup> Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

Here's an interesting detail I just learned last week...

(*Show Bartimaeus Slide*)

This cloak of Bartimaeus, it was not just some jacket

It was a beggar's cloak.

It kept him warm.

When it laid upon his lap or in front of him

It could catch the coins that were tossed his way

And it was also the mat that he likely slept upon at night,

And was wrapped around him as a blanket

And it also identified him as a beggar,

**And a blind one** at that

Remember that back in Jesus' day,

It was understood that if someone was blind

It was because God was punishing that person

For some sin they had committed

So when Bartimaeus throws his coat to the side,

It's not some random piece of clothing

It's the thing – perhaps the one thing – that keeps him warm

Provides some comfort for his sleep

And catches the donations and alms that others throw his way

**And** it's also his identity

And the baggage that this identity

as a beggar who is blind carries with it

And Bartimaeus threw it aside

(*Show blank Slide*)

What is your request?

What do you long for?

And what might **hinder** your request?

What baggage or identity or burden do you need to set aside

To be healed by Jesus?

(*Show Bartimaeus Slide*)

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<sup>51</sup> Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

<sup>52</sup> Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

–Mark 10:49-52

Bartimaeus set aside what hindered him,

Jumped up toward Jesus

And was healed not just by the touch of Jesus

(did Jesus even touch him??)

But also through **his faith** in what Jesus offered

And, oh, another detail here...

What was the name of that blind beggar in Jericho?  
(Bartimaeus)

Do you find it interesting  
that we still know this guy's name 2,000 years later?  
Perhaps that's because that encounter on the road in Jericho  
Was not the end of his story

Since Mark, in his writing, calls him by name,  
I'm guessing that the first readers of this Gospel  
In the earliest days of the church knew old Bartimaeus  
Or at least heard about him from others

Why might've he been known by those in the church?  
  
*and he began to follow Jesus on the way.*

But wait!  
Did Jesus tell this healed man to follow him?

We don't hear this invitation in  
Matthew, Mark or Luke

But guess what?  
In Matthew and in Mark and in Luke,  
This recently healed man follows Jesus  
in all three versions of the story

*(Show blank Slide)*

I think it's interesting that in our lesson two weeks ago,  
The man to whom Jesus said,  
*And come, follow me*  
Didn't

<sup>21</sup> *Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, "You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me."*  
<sup>22</sup> *But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.*

– Mark 10:21-22

I don't think we remember **that** man's name,  
The one with many possessions  
who kept the commandments since he was a boy

But we know that blind beggar's name  
What was his name, again?  
(Bartimaeus)

*(Show Bartimaeus Healed Slide)*

Can you imagine,  
After he was given his sight,  
Bartimaeus echoing those words from Psalm 34?

<sup>1</sup> *I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise will always be in my mouth.*

<sup>2</sup> *I praise the LORD  
— let the suffering listen and rejoice.*

<sup>3</sup> *Magnify the LORD with me!  
Together let us lift his name up high!*

<sup>4</sup> *I sought the LORD and he answered me.  
He delivered me from all my fears.*

<sup>5</sup> *Those who look to God will shine;  
their faces are never ashamed.*

– Psalm 34:1-5

Bartimaeus followed Jesus out of joy  
And he followed Jesus **with** joy

He was filled with joy because he saw and he experienced  
God's love in action

How about you?  
Have you seen and experienced God's love in action?

(Show "O for the wonderful love" Slide)

4. *O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned,  
he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.*

*Come home, come home;  
ye who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!*

(Show Bartimaeus Healed Slide)

Come near, and hear Jesus asking you,  
"What do you want me to do for you?"

It's just you and Jesus  
The disciples and the crowd just disappear into the background

What is your request?  
What do you long for?  
What might hinder your request?

<sup>51</sup> *Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"*

*The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."*

<sup>52</sup> *Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.*

(Hymn "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" # 348)

