

THURSDAY

‘What Do You Want Me to Do for You?’

- Two miracles serve as bookends = Mark’s section on discipleship
- Two different blind men healed
 - 1) Mark 8 – Jesus touched blind man twice to illustrate sometime it takes spiritual insight time to unfold
 - 2) Mark 10 = no physical touch = just declaration from Jesus

Mark 10:46–47 ⁴⁶Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude [throng of people = on way to Jerusalem for Passover], blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. ⁴⁷And when he heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth**, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- Went out city gates where blind sat / hoping those who passed / take pity on them
- Bartimaeus / physically blind = had spiritual eyes to recognize Jesus as Davidic Messiah
 - aware of Jesus’ ancestry = right to Davidic throne
- “Son of David” = Messianic title

ABSG: “The title “Son of David” in Jesus’ day had two concepts connected with it—1) the restoration of a king to Israel’s throne; and 2) that this personage would be a healer and exorcist.”

- Bartimaeus’ cry = confession of faith
 - Confidence in Christ’s ability to heal him
- Q: How do we react to presence of Christ? With faith/confidence?

Mark 10:48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- Up to this point in Mark’s gospel = Jesus instructed people to be quiet about His miracles
- Now = in keeping w/ “revelation/secret motif” of Mark’s gospel, crowd take on role of calling for silence

- continuing to hush him /annoyed at his persistence
- Q: Ask ourselves: how do we react to the presence of faith in others?
- Bartimaeus' cry = was in childlike faith
 - dependence on God's mercy/grace
- Bartimaeus not dissuaded = increases his volume – cries out louder
- Blind = totally dependent on charity / guidance / protection of others
- In ancient world = blind / one of society's expendables
 - That's how crowd treats him
- Crowd is wrong= Jesus sees no one as insignificant

Mark 10:49 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.”

- He perceives Bartimaeus' need/faith = responds differently than crowd = Commands him to be called to His side
- Although shadow of cross loomed over His path
 - still responded to distress of another
- Jesus sets example for us = in middle of His journey to Jerusalem to fulfill God's mission for Him = takes time out to respond to need of helpless man = bringing him blessings/peace
- Q: Are we always willing to listen for desperate cries of others
 - Pause our journey in life / respond to their needs?

Mark 10:50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

- When Jesus calls him = Bartimaeus leaps up
- Leaves everything he has/ even his cloak—just like disciples had done at beginning when they left their nets / tax booth

ABSG: “Significantly, the blind man throws off his cloak as he comes to Jesus. Blind people in Jesus' day were at the bottom of society, along with widows and orphans. These were individuals below subsistence

level and in real peril. The cloak would be the man's security. Leaving it behind meant he had faith that Jesus would heal him."

Mark 10:51 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."

- Jesus asks same question He had asked James/John in vs 10:37
- Pattern emerges = Jesus likes us to be specific in our prayer requests
 - Are you crying out today for help = be as specific as possible
 - Recognition of need = evidence of faith in His ability
- Unlike James/John whose spiritual eyesight was dim
 - Bartimaeus does not ask for seat of glory
- W/O hesitation = asks for eyes to see in **physical** realm
 - as he was already seeing in **spiritual** realm

Mark 10:52 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.

ABSG: "Jesus does not disappoint. Indeed, whoever comes to Him for help in the Gospels always receives it."

- According to his faith = Bartimaeus eyesight immediately restored
- Don't misunderstand = power of God healed Bartimaeus
 - his faith was channel by which healing streams flowed
- Bartimaeus trusted Jesus / followed Jesus—toward the cross and into eternal life of the kingdom
- Book end stories of healing blind men = Mark 8 one who Jesus touched / but didn't see clearly until a second touch
- Bartimaeus who Christ merely declared as healed = immediately saw world w/ new eyes and followed Christ
- **Illustrate how discipleship includes spiritual insight regarding who Jesus is and where He is going.**

- Do we believe Jesus able to fulfill our need = give spiritual sight to blind?
- If He opens our eyes / will we trust Him enough to leave our former life behind follow His way of suffering?

Isaiah 42:16 (NIV84) I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

- **Son of David = hears cries of all the oppressed**
 - **Provides them w/spiritual eyesight**