

## Matthew 20:29-34 Seeing More Than Most

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.

Have you ever tried to see how far you could walk with your eye's closed?

A) Why would you do that – right?

B) I once tried to see how far I could ride my bike with my eye's closed. – Why?

1) I was Stupid and I was 5 yrs old

C) Did fine until I rode right under a lifted truck

1) Smashed my head – tweaked my bike

D) Needless to say I never did that on a bike again.

1) Now I just do that in my Car – Just Kidding!!!

Tonight we are going to look at the story of two Blind men who actually saw more than most people.

A) Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem – where he is going to go to the cross – give his life a ransom for...

B) On the way he stops in the city of Jericho – famous for Joshua – rebuilt

1) Trade route – a lot of people moved in and out

C) It was also a city that manufactured a certain balm that was supposed to help those with eye problems

D) So Jericho had a large population of people with eye problems and blindness.

This is not the first time that Jesus has been there.

A) On an early trip he met the tax collector – Zacchaeus – a wee little man –

B) So Jericho was familiar with Jesus – V.29 tells us a great multitude followed him

1) Probably many from Galilee –

C) 30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by,

1) They no doubt hear the commotion – what is going on? Jesus!!!

D) Never seen him – miracles – but have heard....

1) They cry out "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

Now Matthew points out that there were two blind men.

A) While Mark says there was one: Some people scream – Contradiction – discrepancy

B) Can't trust the Bible. – But that is really not a problem

1) It simply means that – there was one who stood out to Peter – re-telling this story to Mark.

C) Mark even gives the blind man a name Bartimaeus

Think of it this way: two teenage brothers go to the fair – they come home and their mother asked the older brother – How was it .

A) He responds - It was fun and he casually mentions – we met these two nice girls.

B) But when she asks the younger brother – he says - Mom it was amazing & I met this girl named Cindy

1) Mom - she is so pretty – we held hands on the Ferris wheel – I think I am in love

C) Why is their story different? One of the girls really stood out to the younger brother.

D) Bartimeus stood out to Peter – or really the Holy Spirit inspiring the writing wanted us to take a closer look at this blind man. – Turn to Mark 10

We read in V. 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!"

Now the first thing that we are told about is:

**#1 Bartimaeus is that He was a beggar !**

A) Beggar - everyday of his life was filled w/ a longing a searching a wondering how his needs would be met - how his needs would be filled.

B) Bartimaeus seems to be a man who was well known in the community because Mark doesn't just say "a blind man."

1) He tells us His name – **Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus**

C) It could be that rather than his name – this was his nick name: Bartimaeus means – son of the unclean.

D) In that culture – the people often associated blindness with sin – which would – support the description – Son of the unclean.

**E) Or maybe he received this nickname because – like many of the homeless people we see on the side of the road – he always LOOKED DIRTY.**

F) Nickname or real name – Point is he was well known

**#2 Bartimaeus saw more than most:**

A) Notice again how Bartimaeus Refers to Jesus – He doesn't call out – Jesus son of Mary and Joseph – No

Aa) Common description of most – isn't this the .... Son of ..... Joseph.....

B) Bartimaeus Refers to Jesus as the SON OF DAVID!

1) Significance? This was the common Jewish reference toward the one that they would believe was the Messiah.

C) So what Bartimaeus Was really saying was: **Jesus the Messiah – Have mercy on me!**

Now think about this: Here is a man who has never seen Jesus- never watched him heal someone.

**Didn't see – loaves and the fishes.**

A) But he has obviously heard about Jesus – He has heard the miracle stories – he has heard about the sermons.

B) From everything that Bartimaeus heard about Jesus – He came to this conclusion – He must be the Messiah.

C) Significance for us in that? The Bible declares in **Romans 10:17** that **"faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."**

D) So Bartimaeus In his own way – examined the evidence and came to the conclusion – Jesus is the Messiah.

**One of the saddest things to me is when I meet someone who has formed an opinion about Jesus – without examining the evidence.**

A) You meet that person who says: **I believe that Jesus was simple a good teacher. – or a Prophet. – nothing more.**

B) Why do you believe that? – Ever studied about Jesus? No – Ever looked into his claims – No –

1) It is just what I believe!

**Christianity is not blind faith: Not just a sentimental – theory: Facts – Hard Evidence**

A) The Most compelling is the Resurrection

B) See when someone comes along who predicts his own murder

1) but also predicts that the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He will rise again from the dead – He DOES THAT!!!!

C) That is good enough for us!

1) A Guy like that is worth following: Especially when He also claimed to be the **ONLY WAY TO GOD- TO HEAVEN.**

**So I say to people who refuse to consider the evidence:**

A) Here is what you need to say to them: If by chance – I am wrong – I have lost nothing – great life.

**B) But if you are wrong – You are gambling with your eternity!**

1) Are you sure you want to do that!!!

C) Now I have told you the truth – so you are accountable – at least take the time to examine the evidence.

**SO Bartimaeus heard the news about Jesus and believed that He was the Messiah –**

A) There were lots of people in that crowd who were following Jesus hoping to see a sign for themselves –.

B) Wanting a free lunch- hoping he would feed another multitude.

C) So even though Bartimaeus was blind – he saw more than most!

**#3 Bartimaeus asked for the right thing:**

A) He cries out – Have mercy on me!

B) He asked for Mercy – This is interesting because – **Mercy means not getting what you do deserve!**

C) Even little kids – get this: Kids do something wrong:

1) They know what to ask for! – **MERCY PLEASE MERCY!!!**

**D) Aaron used to grab my leg and get all dramatic – Mercy dad – please Mercy**

1) Neighbors – what is going on at the Salvato house.

E) What was he asking for – Dad don't give me what I deserve – I know that I was wrong –

1) I deserve a spanking – but **MERCY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**I think one of the sure signs that a person is growing in their walk with Jesus – is they realize what they have been saved from.**

A) It is when they realize: I really deserved this – Wrath vengeance – Hell - Mercy – Heaven

B) Hardest for people who were good people – or religious people.

1) Still a Sinner – still deserved punishment – doesn't matter if broke 1 law of God or 5000

C) Important to realize - Becoming a Christian is not just about having a better life.

**D) We don't come to Jesus so He will fix my marriage, help me in my business.**

E) Following Jesus starts with embracing – I am a sinner and I need a savior

So **#3 Bartimaeus asked for the right thing:**

**#4 Bartimaeus would not be shut down by peer pressure:**

A) So Bartimaeus is calling out for Mercy – notice what it says next –

**<sup>48</sup> Then many warned him to be quiet;**

B) This shows you what the crowds thought about Bartimaeus – He is just that old blind beggar –

1) Someone as important as Jesus doesn't have time for someone like Bartimaeus.

C) So they told him to be quiet !

**And I find this to be so intriguing because people will say the same things today to us.**

A) Some of you have had friends or relatives – or even a spouse – say: **You know you need to calm down – getting too fanatical with Jesus stuff.**

B) The Devil – will whisper in your ear – Jesus is really not interested in you or you are too far gone

1) He is mad at you – Why Pray

C) Notice what Bartimaeus Does here – How he responds to that!

**but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

D) Sometimes the best way to deal with those negative voices is to cry out even louder to Jesus –

**The world right now is trying so HARD TO SILENCE Christians –**

A) Labeling us as Intolerant – Haters – Prejudice – Bigots

B) Too be honest there are some Christians who can come across that way.

1) And it can cause most of us who are not that way to shrink back –

C) We don't want to be identified with those who misrepresent Jesus' heart

D)Wrong approach – We need to cry out even louder to counter act the wrong impressions

E)We need to work extra hard to show them what the Love of Jesus looks like.

**Not a time to back down – It is a time to stand firm – Be passionate about the things that Jesus was passionate about.**

A)People and souls and hearts that are deceived – lives that are being wrecked by sin and immorality.

B)We want them to understand –Jesus loves them

1)He has a plan for them – Life in His name – freedom – not restrictions.

C)Not a time to be silent – time to cry out More

1)**Live right – Lives reflect Jesus clearly**

**So Bartimaeus would not be silenced – He cried out even louder – And notice what it says next – Jesus stopped – Called for him! V.49**

A)Once again we see that the heart of Jesus is moved by desperateness and faith.

B)Here is this man who would not be silent – who would be persistent – who would cry out – even louder.

1)His cry reached the ears and the heart of Jesus!

C)Cry out Church – **“He is the rewarder of those who diligently = passionately and deliberately seek Him!” Hebrews 11:6**

D)What happens next is easy to miss but is absolutely fascinating

**#5 Bartimaeus left his Identity behind**

<sup>50</sup> **And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.**

A)This might seem like an insignificant point and easy thing to over look – but this is actually huge.

B)That garment or coat – represented a lot. – See in that culture – beggars would often wear a special coat.

C)Coat would have deep pockets sewn into them.

1)Pockets that could hold the money that they received from People. / **Harder for a pick pocket**

**So this coat represented Bart’s livelihood but it was also His identity.**

A)When people saw that coat – they knew right away – “Oh Bartimaeus is out today.”

B)So by laying aside that Coat- Bartimaeus was laying aside his livelihood and his identity.

C)Why would he do that? FAITH

1)He Believed that Jesus was going to do a work in his life. **He was going to become a new person.**

D)He was not going to need a beggars coat ANYMORE!

**Note this: I think that coming to Jesus is not about – Him making you a better version of yourself. –**

A)But it is recognizing that He wants to make you into an entirely different person.

B)He is wanting to make us more like Himself – **Romans 8:29** gives us the goal of transformation: **“Transform us into the image of His own dear son.”**

C)That is the goal that is the target – we need to recognize that – Huge

D)You see if I am simply thinking that Jesus is wanting to make me into a better version of myself

1)**I will settle for so much less.**

**I will be prone to compare myself with others –**

A)And I will feel good about myself – because I can always find someone worse.

B)Lots of lousy husbands, fathers, - lots of people that I could point to and say – I am a better Christian than them – “I don’t do that.”

C)But they are not the target! **God is wanting to make us more like His son**

1)Jesus – that is the standard.

D)God is committed to completing the work – that he has begun – make us more like Jesus

**But for some of us – that process is going to involve you being willing to lay aside your IDENTITY.**

A)This is what I want to be know for – COOL

B) I WANT to be seen in this way: We all try at times to be something we are not.

C) Some of you need to lay aside your identity- because it is the thing that is the #1 hang up in your being **a true follower of Jesus. Sold out!**

D) Key to life – Is in realizing that Jesus has a great plan for you –

1) Sooner you get on board with that the freer you will be.

**#6 Bartimeaus made it personal:**

**<sup>51</sup> 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.”**

A) Most of the people who were interested in Jesus referred to Him as Rabbi

B) Rabbi- was the common name for **Rabbi = teacher or master.**

1) but Rabboni makes it personal – **Rabboni = My Master – my teacher, My Lord!**

C) The only other person who referred to Jesus as Rabboni – was one of his most dedicated followers

1) Mary Magdalene – at the tomb!

**Bartimeaus moves from the casual but respectful description of Jesus to the Reverent and intimate expression.**

A) You are MY MASTER, MY TEACHER, MY LORD!

B) Jesus came to establish a way for a personal relationship!

C) Know Him – we can say – Like David – the Lord is *my* shepherd

1) Thomas: My Lord and My God!

**D) Jesus wants you to make it personal: He is my redeemer, my fortress, my shepherd,**

**He is my savior, my friend, My Lord and My God!**

A) Make it personal –

B) Jr in High School – my Youth Pastor said to me – Problem is?

1) Jesus is just a part of your life – not the center

C) Like a Pie – **He was a Piece** – sometimes large other times small

1) Jesus and you in the center – your life revolving around him

**D) Jesus doesn't want to be just a part of your life but the one that your life revolves around.**

E) Make it personal – it will change everything!!!!!!