

Mark 10:46-52

Lessons from a Blind Man

Do you know what is the #1 physical ability that people fear losing in the USA – the thing that people fear losing more than anything else? **THEIR SIGHT**

A) More than a Hand – foot – ear – arm – The thing that People fear the most is going blind.

B) HAVE your ever thought about what it might be like to be blind?

C) When I was a kid I had this brilliant idea once. 1) Lets see how far I can ride my bike with my eyes closed.

D) **Why did –I want to try that?** I have no idea.

1) It seemed liked **a cool thing to do at the time.** I was probably about 6 yrs old.

E) I was doing well until I rode under the back end of a parked jacked up truck? Bashed my bike – my head.

1) **THAT IS WHY I LOOK THIS WAY TODAY!**

The Interesting thing about people who are blind is that their other senses are heightened – sense of smell, sense of hearing and sense of touch.

A) This morning we are going to be looking **at a Blind man who actually saw more than most.**

B) He had a perception that many people in the crowd that day were oblivious too.

C) Title of today’s message is “**lessons from a Blind man.**”

1) Today we are looking at one of my favorite characters in the Bible. **BLIND BARTIMAEUS.**

D) Only seven verses – but There is a lot that we can learn about following Jesus from this guy!

SET THE SCENE: JESUS IS HEADING UP TO JERUSALEM.

A) HE is going to be entering into the final week of His life – NEXT WEEK – last section in Mark

The greatest week in History – 3 months.

B) Today is the precursor. To travel from Galilee to Jerusalem by the way of the Sea you would pass by or through the city of Jericho.

C) **Jericho was a pretty popular city.** – Major trade route – major thorough fair in that part of the ancient world.

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 V.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 Bartimaeus is that He was a beggar!

A) **Beggar** - everyday of his life was filled with a longing, **a searching, a wondering how** needs are to be met - how needs are to 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 title: Bartimaeus means – **son of the unclean.**

In that culture – the people often associated blindness with sin.

A) Which would support the description Son of the unclean.

B) 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.**

C) So whether it was his title or a name is really irrelevant, my point is that he was well known.

Pause to mention that Matthew and Luke's gospels point out that there were two blind men.

A) Some have had a problem with the fact that Mark only mentions one.

B) But that is really not a problem it simply means that **there was one who stood out to Peter** re-telling this story to Mark.

1) Bartimaeus probably stood out because he was the one talking.

C) 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.

D) It was fun and he casually mentions – we met two girls.

Later she asks the younger brother the same question– he says -

A) **Mom it was amazing and I met Betty** – she is so pretty –

B) We held hands on 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.

Bartimaeus stood out to Peter – or really the Holy Spirit inspiring the writing wanted us to take a closer look at this blind man.

A) So lets see what lessons we can learn from this Blind man Bartimaeus – I count at least 5

#1 Bartimaeus saw more than most:

A) Notice again how Bartimaeus Refers to Jesus – He calls out – Jesus son of Mary and Joseph – No

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 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.”**

So Bartimaeus In his own way – examined the evidence and came to the conclusion – Jesus must be the Messiah.

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

B) You meet that person who says: **I believe that Jesus was simple a good teacher. – Or a Prophet. – Nothing more.**

C) 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:

A) No when someone comes along who **predicts his own murder**

B) But **also predicts that the 3rd day He will rise again from the dead – PULLS IT OFF!**

1) That is good enough for us!

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

D) He spoke more about Hell than anything else – because **HE DID NOT WANT PEOPLE TO GO THERE.** –
1) He wanted them to go to heaven – Have life.

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

Here is the thing you need to realize: If by chance – **I am wrong – lost nothing – great life.**

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

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

It all starts with Jesus:

A) If he is who He said he was: I can believe in Hell – because he talked about it.

B) I can believe in Creation and Adam and Eve – because – He did.

C) I can believe in Heaven – He promised to prepare a place for His followers there –

D) Again: **He predicted in detail his brutal murder and His rising again the third day – AND HE PULLED IT OFF!**

E) The tomb in Israel is empty –
1) There is Not a good explanation for it being empty other than what the Bible teaches – **JESUS ROSE!**

SO Bartimaeus heard the news about Jesus and believed that He was the Messiah – So that is what Bartimaeus Saw

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!

1) So **#1 that is what Bartimaeus Saw**

#2 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: They know they know what to ask for! – **MERCY!!! PLEASE MERCY!!!**

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

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

E) I deserve a spanking – but MERCY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I think one of the sure signs of a person being saved is when they realize what they are being saved from: A) Sin – **Wages of sin is death.**

A) Becoming a Christian is not just about having a better life.

B) We don't come to Jesus so He will fix my marriage or help me in my business.

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

D) Jesus is the only one qualified to be my savior because –**He predicted his murder – and his Resurrection – 3 days latter and he pulled it off.**
{**How many times is He going to say that today?**}

E) Proving to me and to the world – that **“He is the way the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but through Him.”**
John 14:6

So #2 Bartimaeus cried out for Mercy

#3 Bartimaeus would not be shut down by peer pressure:

A) So Bartimaeus is calling out for Mercy – notice what it says next – ⁴⁸ **Then many warned him to be quiet.**

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

C) **And someone as important as Jesus doesn’t have time for someone like Bartimaeus.**

D) 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 – 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 – You are not Chosen.

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** –

1) Don’t be intimidated by those around you or the devil who hates you.

The world right now is trying so HARD TO SILENCE Christians

A) Labeling us as Intolerant – narrow minded **Hateful people** – Prejudice – Bigots

B) Because we take a stand for **Biblical Morality** on things like **Marriage / Abortion – human sexuality**

C) **Not a time to back down – soften our stance!**

1) Isaiah prophesied that in the last days – **people would call black white, white black – Settle for grey**

D) As believers we are to stand unashamedly for righteousness.

E) Always remembering though – God hates sin but he loves the sinner

When I say we need to stand firm: We need to not back off or change our stance to conform to culture

A) The Bible is our guide – Because: Jesus predicted 3 days later his Resurrection – pulled it off –

B) Which means: We should listen to what He says

C) Always remembering though – **why He did what He did**

1) The hearts of lost **people**.

The Bible says that Satan blinds the eyes of men to the truth.

A) We need to pray for **people’s eyes** to be opened.

B) **Spiritual battle for hearts -that are deceived** – lives that are being wrecked by sin and immorality.

C) Taking a stand – not so much because we want to try to preserve the moral make up of our country.

1) More so we want to see **people saved** – heartache sin

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) Again: one of the things I believe the Lord is challenging us as a church is this –

1) Will we be passionate in our pursuit of Jesus?

E) Prayer and worship - Will we diligently and passionately pursue Him?

1) So Jesus called Bartimaeus to come to Him.

#4 Bartimaeus left his coat behind? ⁵⁰ 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 special coat.

C) **Coat would have deep pockets sewn into them. – Pockets that could hold the money that they received from People.**

1) This would be especially important for a beggar who was blind – **who would not be able to see a pickpocket.**

So this coat represented Bartimaeus’ livelihood as well as 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?** He knew 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 beggar’s coat anymore!

AGAIN 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 for us – Huge we recognize that **For you see if I am simply thinking that Jesus is wanting to make me into a better version of myself –** A) I will settle for so much less.

B) **I will be prone to compare myself with others** – and I will feel good about myself – because I can always find someone worse.

C) **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.”

D) But they are not the target! **God wants to make us more like His son**

1) Jesus – He is the standard.

E) God is working – NOT US- but we need to know what the target is and not settle for anything less.

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

A) You still are latched on to who you think you are – Persona – or who you want to be –

B) Jesus wants you to surrender all of that to Him — 1) So that He can begin to make you – who he wants you to be. TODAY

C) Not really going to experience **true transformation until you do that!** **Bartimaeus did – Laid aside his coat**

#5 Bartimaeus made it personal: Rabboni!

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.”

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 – Mary Magdalene – at the tomb!

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

A) You are **MY MASTER, MY TEACHER, and 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!*

Jesus wants you to make it personal: He is my redeemer, my fortress, my shepherd, my savior, my friend, My Lord and My God!

A) **Make it personal** – Jesus not just a part of your life but the one that your life revolves around.

B) So #5 Bartimaeus made it personal

One last thing to note - Bartimaeus followed Jesus on the road!

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.

A) This is interesting to me in light of what we saw earlier here in **Chapter 10 Rich young ruler**.

B) Remember – Jesus said to him – Go sell your possessions and come and follow me

C) The Rich young ruler went away sad – many possessions

1) He chose – material wealth over relationship with God

D) Jesus says to Bartimaeus – Go your way – He makes his way to follow Jesus!

Jesus says to you today – Follow me – Respond

Make YOUR WAY? – Mark of Your life?