

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus Loves Outcasts

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.

Today we are continuing our "Who does Jesus Love Series."

A) Paul Tournier A Swiss Physician who has been called the 20th century's most Famous Christian physician.

B) Was quoted as saying: I am convinced that 9 out of every 10 people who go to see a psychiatrist don't need one.

1) What they need is someone who will show them God's love, and they will get better."

C) Some people might – think that is being too simplistic –

D) But we have seen week after week in this series people whose lives have been radically transformed by the LOVE OF JESUS

E) I am looking out at a room full of people whose lives have been radically transformed.... Jesus

So I agree whole heartedly with what Billy Graham declared - "If you really knew the love of God toward you, it would transform your life." -

A) Today we are going to see another one of those transforming stories

B) Jesus loves Outcasts!

C) Here in our story Jesus heals a blind man – who was literally an outcast in his city.

1) His name is Bartimaeus

#1 Who was Bartimaeus? He was a beggar!

A) Every day of his life was filled w/ a longing, a searching a wondering how his needs be met - how needs 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 –

1) which would – support the description – Son of the unclean.

E) Or maybe he received this nickname because like many of the homeless pp in our society

1) He just looked unkept and dirty on most days.

My point us people knew who he was – he was a fixture in that city.

A) Bartimaeus the Blind beggar. – But he was an outcast

B) Why do I say that- notice v.48 again **Then many warned** him to be quiet;

C) Warned = more than a shhh's - rebuked him –

1) Shut up Bart –

D) IN Essence they were saying Someone like Jesus doesn't have time for someone like you.

1) Too busy – too important –

E) So Bart – stop yelling NOW!

But the 2nd thing I want us to note is that although Bartimaeus was blind **He saw more than most:**

A) Notice again how Bart. Refers to Jesus – He doesn't call out – Jesus of Nazareth

B) That is what the people were saying – he hears the commotion – what is going on?

1) Jesus of Nazareth is here

C) Bart. 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.

So we could translate what Bart was saying in this way: Jesus the Messiah – Have mercy on me!

A) Now think about this – here is a man who has never seen Jesus

B) Never watched him heal someone – or turn water into wine –

1) Or feed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish

C) He wasn't there when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!

So how could Bart – speak so definitively about Jesus – “Jesus you are the Messiah – have mercy...”

A) Because he has obviously heard about Jesus –

B) He has heard the miracle stories – he has heard about the sermons.

C) From everything that Bart. Heard about Jesus – He came to this conclusion – He must be the Messiah.

D) Significance for us in that?

1) We walk by faith and not by sight

E) The Bible declares in **Romans 10:17** that “**faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.**”

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 3rd 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:

D) Especially when He also claimed to be the **ONLY WAY TO GOD- TO HEAVEN.**

1) Power in that message

E) Guys that should motivate us to share the gospel.

1) Great reminder the power is not in the messenger
The power is in the message!

SO BART. Heard the news about Jesus and believed that He was the Messiah –

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

D) Aaron flare for the dramatic - 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 Aaron was saying – 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 when they realize what they have been saved from.

A) It is when they realize: What I really deserved was – Wrath vengeance – Hell -

B) But he extends Mercy – David Mathis

“Wrath is God's righteous response to evil, but it is not his heart. Justice is the stem; mercy is the flower.”

C) I love that picture: When Justice is planted in the soil of God's love – The flower of mercy is the result

When Moses asked God to show him his glory – God proclaimed his attributes to Moses

A) My glory is bound up in my identity.

the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty. Exodus 34:6-7
ESV

B) That last line doesn't bode well for us – because we are all guilty because of our rebellion and sin
1) so we deserved the wrath of God

C) But God sent his son Jesus to pay the price for our sins – CROSS

D) Because of that God can bestow his grace and mercy – lovingkindness and forgiveness
1) On all who put their faith in Jesus

E) Following Jesus starts with embracing – **I am a sinner and I need a savior – need MERCY**
1) So #3 Bartimaeus asked for the right thing:

#4 Bartimaeus would NOT be shut down by the CANCEL CULTURE OF HIS DAY!

A) Bart is calling out for Mercy – THE CROWD tries to CANCEL HIM

B) SHUT UP Bart – stop yelling – you are insignificant – **You don't have a voice**

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

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

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

C) Note: Something – Bart is not Yelling at the people who are yelling at him to shut up -
1) He is not yelling back **“You shut up....”**

D) Bart is yelling out to Jesus

Something in this we can learn – It doesn't do any good when Christians are yelling at our culture.

A) It only makes us come across as Antagonistic

B) Bible says – the godly in Christ - will suffer persecution - TRUE

1) Some suffer from being jerks

C) Too intense/ mean- yelling at culture – coming across hateful.

1) “Jesus has been the victim of a lot of bad PR – most of it has come from his friends” - true

JESUS said – the world will know that you are my disciples by, how obnoxious you are?

A) How loud you are yelling back at them?

B) No they are going to know you are my disciples by your love!

A) We can learn something from Bart

B) Bart is standing strong in his convictions – Jesus is the messiah –

C) When he is REBUKED – he is not shouting back at the people

D) NO he is crying out to JESUS! – NLT **HE SHOUTED out even louder.**

We need to learn that same Balance – we cry out to JESUS

A) At the same time standing firm in our convictions and not backing down at all.

B) Governor Newsome - Don't sing – no scientific proof of that we are going to SING!!!

C) Be passionate about the things that Jesus was passionate about.

1) In the midst of great antagonism - We need to work hard to show them what the Love of Jesus looks like.

D) We stand for truth – we stand for righteousness

1) We speak out about Abortion – Wrong/ sinful

E) But we are told to speak the truth in Love

F) So We lovingly condemn Tyranny, immorality and sin in our culture.

1) Always remembering Jesus hates sin but loves the sinner.

He sees sinners as People and souls and hearts that are deceived –

A) Lives that are being wrecked by sin and immorality.

B) People that he left heaven to save!

C) So we can learn from our friend Bart – who stood in his convictions –

1) But he cried out EVEN LOUDER not at his accusers but he cried out to JESUS

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

A) JESUS STOOD STILL - LOVE THIS!

B) He is the God who hears – note that – you cry out to him today – he hears you.

C) Jesus is always moved by desperate faith.

D) Throughout the gospels Jesus always responds in a positive way toward the desperate.

Here is this man who would not be silent – who would be persistent –

A) who would cry out – even louder. - His cry reached the ears and the heart of Jesus! - STOPPED

“**He is the rewarder of those who diligently = passionately and deliberately seek Him!**” Hebrews 11:6

B) Now What happens next is easy to miss but is absolutely fascinating

⁵⁰ **And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.**

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

Bartimaeus left his Identity behind

B) That garment or coat – represented a lot. –

1) 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**

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

So by laying aside that Coat- Bart was laying aside his livelihood and his identity.

A) Why would he do that? FAITH

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

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

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 –

1) 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) We have seen this in our Wednesday night study in Philippians – Paul’s testimony

B) Ch.3 Paul lays out an impressive resume for who he was in the flesh.

1) Very religious – Pharisee – A Hebrew of the Hebrews – great background – stock – zeal

C) But Paul says -I have counted all of that loss for the sake of knowing Jesus!

Those things represented Paul's identity – His religious pedigree – status – how others saw him

A) I have counted all of that as loss – for the sake of knowing Jesus

B) In other words – Paul is saying -I want my identity to be found in him.

C) We noted in our Wed night study that Paul said I counted all of that as loss – past tense

1) But then he said – and I continue to count it as loss
PRESENT TENSE.

D) Why would Paul need to continue to count it as loss?

1) Our flesh is constantly wanting us to find our identity in something other than Jesus.

E) Paul counted what he used to find his identity in as loss – as garbage – and he continued to count it...

1) My identity is going to be in JESUS

I think a similar thing is happening in the life of Abraham - in Genesis 22

A) God asked Abraham to take his son – Isaac the promised child – altar – sacrifice to God

B) Why? Isaac represented Abe's identity

C) God asked Abe to leave his home land – journey to a new land -promise – I will make of you a great nation

The problem was Abe was old – and he didn't have any kids.

A) But Abe believed God – obeyed – said ok – trust you to do this.

B) Now imagine meeting Abe out on the road

C) He rolls up into your village with his posse

D) You ask – **who are you and what are you doing out here.**

Abe says God appeared to me - told me to leave my home land and go to a land he would show me

A) My descendants would become a great nation

B) Wow that is amazing!!! How many kids do you have ? NONE –

1) How old are you? 75 – How old is your wife 65

C) Imagine the whispers – Have you met that guy Abraham? **Delusional – wandering around**

D) 25 yrs would go by before Isaac was born –

1) 25 yrs – crazy Abe and Sarah – pity them

But then Isaac was born – validation –

A) See I wasn't crazy – this was a miracle birth this is the promised child –

B) Here we go the plan of God was unfolding – Abe's identity would become wrapped up in Isaac

1) This child validates the promise of God to me

C) But then God tells Abe – put your son on the Altar

1) Are you willing to put your identity on the Altar?

God didn't have him follow through

But I think God asks us all the time to do the same thing.

A) To Put that thing – that person that represents our identity on the Altar!!!!

B) So that our identity can be found solely in our relationship with HIM!

1) Everything is seen through the lens of who we are in Christ.

C) Question: What might Jesus be calling you to put on the altar today?

1) What is your identity in other than Jesus ?

D) Bartimaeus was willing to lay aside the very thing that represented his identity –

1) Because he believed that in coming to Jesus he was going to get a NEW IDENTITY!

Note: Jesus asked an obvious question

⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" obvious question-why?

A) Jesus does this a lot – he asked people who had a need an obvious question.

B) Lame man – do you want to walk? – DUH

1) Blind man – what can I do for you?

C) Why does Jesus do this? Why does he ask such an obvious question?

I think the answer is bound up in the power of the first Beatitude Matthew 5:3

A) Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs in the kingdom of heaven

B) To become poor in spirit is to realize our utter dependency upon God for everything

C) Jesus wants needy people to confess their need because it illustrates that poor in spirit mindset

D) It is confessing – this is something that I can't change about me –

1) This is only something that you can change

Jesus asked needy people to confess their obvious need as an example to all of us –

A) To do the same about our unobvious needs

B) Sometimes it takes a while for us to come to that place – I can't change this about me

1) We try and try – become more and more frustrated

C) When a man gets to the end of himself – he gets to the beginning of God

D) Jesus is asking some of you today – What do you want me to do for you? Fill in the _____

1) Are you ready to confess – I can't fix this

E) Poor in spirit – utterly dependent upon Jesus

Lastly notice how Bartimaeus made it personal

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 = teacher or master.

1) Common name for someone who taught you or who you held in high respect as a spiritual leader

C) 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!

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

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

B) Who is Jesus to you? Rabbi – respect – or rabboni – personal

C) David Psalm 23 – Shepherd or MY Shepherd

D) Is He the center of your life or a part of it?

And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

A) Will you follow Jesus today

B) Be willing to lay aside your identity to and find your identity in him

C) Deny yourself take up your cross and follow me

Acknowledging Communion – As often as you do this do it in remembrance of me

A) Body that was broken – Punishment

B) Blood shed for you redemption

C) Remembering that

1) As a sinner – sin separated – needed a savior

D) You today – Jesus died for your sin – 3 days later rose – life

1) Only way – Will you acknowledge that and embrace him by faith today ?

The call to Deny ourselves and take up the cross is an invitation to let our identity be found in JESUS

A) Willingness to put identity on the Altar

B) My identity in Jesus

C) Pray- partake – (not in an unworthy manner)

Baptism:

A) Outward proclamation – Jesus I am a follower of yours

B) My identity in You

C) YOUR DEATH & YOUR RESURRECTION