

THE HEALING OF BARTIMAEUS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—November 26th, 2023

Mark 10:46-52

(ESV)

[46] And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. [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] And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [49] And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." [50] And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. [51] And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." [52] And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

INTRODUCTION

For Jesus, dependence is at the heart of discipleship.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29—[27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

FROM DESTITUTE TO DIGNIFIED

Destitution is when someone lacks the basic necessities for a dignified life.

Bartimaeus' destitution is made evident by...

- (1) His description—a beggar.
- (2) His location—outside the city.
- (3) His activity—sitting.

Mark hints at a deep sense of dignity in Bartimaeus.

- (1) Bartimaeus is the only person healed by Jesus whose name we know.
- (2) Bartimaeus' healing is also the last recorded healing in the Gospel of Mark.
- (3) Bartimaeus' hope for dignity came from the fact that Jesus cares about the destitute.

Luke 4:18–19

*[18] “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

FROM INHIBITED TO INCLUDED

Bartimaeus understood that if he ever had a shot at mercy, it would be by recognizing Jesus for who he truly is.

The irony is that Bartimaeus, who was blind, saw Jesus clearly; but the crowd, who was able to see, actually was blind to the truth.

Mark 8:17–18—*Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? [18] Having eyes do you not see?*

FROM SINFUL TO SAVED

People were never a distraction for Jesus, because for Jesus, people were at the center of his purpose.

Luke 19:10—*[10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

Jesus didn’t want to simply heal Bartimaeus, he wanted to know him.

More than blind, Bartimaeus was dead.

Ephesians 2:1—*[1] And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...*

Ephesians 2:4–5—*[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...*