

Your Notes

When you cry out to Jesus, how do you pray?

:46-52 JESUS HEALS BLIND BARTIMAEUS. Mt. 20:29-34; Lk. 18:35-43

This blind beggar **‘sees’** what most of Israel can’t. “Jesus, Son of David, **have mercy on me!**” When the cry comes **from the heart**, Jesus hears and responds. *Jesus practiced the servant-leadership He had just told His disciples to practice.*

Don’t ignore the call of Jesus, no matter **who you are** or **what your conditions!**

Vocalizing the request made it specific and constituted a confession of faith in Jesus and His ability to heal. **Faith in Jesus** had already made him a whole man. His identity had changed. His direction had changed. He began a **whole new path**, following Jesus down the road.

Here is the One who can meet all our needs. How is it evident in your life that you are turning to Jesus?

Do you want to see? Then cry out for mercy to the One who can and will give you true healing! Or, perhaps you don’t even know you have a need. Perhaps you are content in your blindness and would just like something to help you get by!

Jesus stopped for a blind man who wanted His mercy and to see. How do you deal with the ‘interruptions’ in your life? Which do you see them as: God-given opportunities to practice serving OR as a distraction to get rid of?

In what areas do you need Jesus to exercise mercy and give you sight?

FOR NEXT WEEK: Please read Mark 11:1-11. In :1-6, what assignment does Jesus give two disciples? In :7-10, how do the people respond? Also read Mt. 21:4-11, Lk. 19:35-44, and Jn. 12:12-19. Putting all these passages together, what lessons are you learning? In :11, what quiet action did Jesus take? In conclusion, who IS this Jesus?

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Don't ignore the call of Jesus, no matter _____ or _____!

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This is the last healing miracle Mark records. It is an excellent illustration of meeting a person where he/she is. **When you cry out to Jesus, how do you pray?**

READ :46-52. **JESUS HEALS BLIND BARTIMAEUS.** MT. 20:29-34; LK. 18:35-43.

:46 **Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.**

:46 READ. In NT times there were two Jerichos, one old and one new. "In Jesus' time the old Jericho was largely abandoned, but the new one extending to the south was an attractive city. It had been built by Herod the Great who had his winter palace there." About a mile apart, they were 18 miles NE of Jerusalem, and 5 miles from the Jordan River. Between the two cities! (MAP)

The news that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem would have created a buzz of excitement. Amazement and fear were the people's responses.

Matthew tells us there were actually two men; probably Mark is focusing on the loudest or best known or because of his name. The name Bartimaeus = son of Timaeus; he was known by his father's name. Timaeus = 'honor'. Here was a blind man named 'son of honor' sitting beside the road.

Beggars were a common sight in Israel. They were also a nuisance to those who considered themselves more fortunate. The handicapped commonly made their living by begging. Compared to the rich young ruler, no one could have been more dissimilar. "He sits in darkness, believing his poverty and blindness are a curse, begging as the massive Passover crowds are pouring by."

:47 **When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

:47 READ. The road would have been packed with Passover people. The man is desperate and persistent. He kept crying out to Jesus. All Jews thought of king David as their father and of the Messiah as his son. As a Jew, he rightly addressed Jesus as 'Son of David'. THIS BLIND BEGGAR 'SEES' WHAT MOST OF ISRAEL CAN'T. "JESUS, SON OF DAVID, **HAVE MERCY ON ME!**" He's pleading with Jesus to heal him at once. It's the perfect prayer, the kind God hears. Jesus as a man had a choice to make on how He was going to respond to this man.

:48 **Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

:48 READ. Here's another 'little one' who wanted Jesus' attention but was hindered by the crowd. Like a child, he had no status in his world. Like the children, he was probably regarded as a nuisance and the people didn't want any delay. They were rebuking him severely: "Hush! Be silent! Why should you force your misery on the attention of this great Prophet?" Probably in his past experiences, no one has responded to his call except to tell him to "Shut up!" **but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

:49 **And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."**

:49 READ. WHEN THE CRY COMES **FROM THE HEART**, JESUS HEARS AND RESPONDS. *Jesus practiced the servant-leadership He had just told His disciples to practice.* This gives us hope for ourselves and an example of how Jesus wants to respond through us. May we too be shaken loose from what we're doing to notice who God wants us to hear. What 'interruptions' finally get your attention? In Jesus' movement toward Jerusalem He made time to serve this man in need.

While writing this message, a car came up our drive. It was our grandson and he was having problems with his car. I could have said, "Don't bother me; I'm writing a message of God!!" Instead, I made the choice to help him work on his car. Must have been Jesus, I'm so handicapped on car repair!

"**Call him here.**" Here's the perfect opportunity, an example of childlike helplessness.

:49b-50 **So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."** :50 **Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.**

:50 READ. Now the mood of the crowd changed: "Cheer up! Come on, He's calling you!" (NLT) He threw aside his ragged outer garment, leaped or sprang up, and came to Jesus. **DON'T IGNORE THE CALL OF JESUS, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOUR CONDITIONS!** Respond as this man. Seize the moment!

:51 And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!"

:51 READ. We've heard Jesus' question before. Where? In **:36**, dealing with the two brothers wanting the numbers 1 and 2 positions in Jesus' kingdom. Here was a man who was conscious of his blindness, whereas the disciples were not.

The man has cried out for mercy. Now Jesus wants him to voice his real need. Jesus wants to do for His disciples what this man wants—to open their eyes. The difference between Bartimaeus' answer and the disciples' request is the difference between faith and ambition. Bart obviously trusted in Jesus' ability to heal him. **VOCALIZING THE REQUEST MADE IT SPECIFIC AND CONSTITUTED A CONFESSION OF FAITH IN JESUS AND HIS ABILITY TO HEAL.**

'Rabboni', an intensified form of rabbi, is one of even greater respect. "I want to recover my sight." The blind man had been able to see at one time.

:52 And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

In one sense, **FAITH IN JESUS** HAD ALREADY MADE HIM A WHOLE MAN. **:52 READ.** And Jesus, without any physical touch, told him he's permanently well, saved. He ushers another 'little one' into His presence. "Go!" A command.

He regained his sight. Now he's no longer a blind beggar but an eager follower. **HIS IDENTITY HAD CHANGED. HIS DIRECTION HAD CHANGED. HE BEGAN A WHOLE NEW PATH,** FOLLOWING JESUS DOWN THE ROAD. The imperfect tense gives us a picture of joyful Bartimaeus following Jesus in the huge crowd on its way to Jerusalem.

According to Lk. 18:43, **"Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God."**

A beggar became a disciple, a follower of Jesus. A blind man could now see. One can only imagine what the disciples thought when a poor beggar, unbidden, joined them on the road to Jerusalem.

Michael Card in his song "The Things We Leave Behind."

"The sightless beggar, pleading each day, Catching the coins in his robe.

At finding Jesus he threw it away And joyfully followed his Lord.

But more than the robe that he left by the way, The darkness that dwelt in his heart went away.

It's hard to imagine the freedom we find From the things we leave behind."

HERE IS THE ONE WHO CAN MEET ALL OUR NEEDS. HOW IS IT EVIDENT IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ARE TURNING TO JESUS?

DO YOU WANT TO SEE? THEN CRY OUT FOR MERCY TO THE ONE WHO CAN AND WILL GIVE YOU TRUE HEALING! OR, PERHAPS YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU HAVE A NEED. PERHAPS YOU ARE CONTENT IN YOUR BLINDNESS AND WOULD JUST LIKE SOMETHING TO HELP YOU GET BY!

JESUS STOPPED FOR A BLIND MAN WHO WANTED HIS MERCY AND TO SEE. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THE 'INTERRUPTIONS' IN YOUR LIFE? WHICH DO YOU SEE THEM AS: GOD-GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE SERVING OR AS A DISTRACTION TO GET RID OF?

IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU NEED JESUS TO EXERCISE MERCY AND GIVE YOU SIGHT?

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On the way to the cross, doing the Father's will, yet willing to be interrupted by a blind beggar. Jesus always has time for us. Now that He's done His work on the cross for us as sinners and for our sins, we remember Him and His work. The Lord's Supper is a special time for Christians to remember Jesus, to express our thanks, to make sure we've dealt with everything that needs our attention. As we partake of the unleavened crackers, reminding us of Jesus' body given for us, and the cup of juice, reminding us of Jesus' blood shed for us, Jesus' words in Mt. 26:26-28 come to mind. Jesus took some bread and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body.**" And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "**Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.**"

As we take the crackers, let's thank our Lord for giving His body. Pray quietly, then have someone pray.
READ Is. 53:1-12 from the NLT.

As we drink the juice, let's thank our Lord for shedding His blood. Pray quietly, then have someone pray.
Have Mark sing a song.

EXTRA NOTES:

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:46 From Jericho, Passover pilgrims would gain some 3000' in elevation before arriving at Jerusalem.

:47 (2 Sam. 7:8-16, Is. 11:1,10; Jer. 23:5-6; Ezek. 34:23-24)

:47 Unlike the Gentile woman of 7:24-30.

:51 Faith asks for needs; ambition begs for desires.

:52 Now that we have traveled with Jesus from Galilee to Perea to Jericho, it's on to Jerusalem. Jesus is about to enter the Holy City. The journey to the cross is nearly over. Just six chapters to go! 40% of book is devoted to seven days.