



LESSON 115 MARK 10:46-52

46And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. **47**And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. **48**And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. **49**And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. **50**And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. **51**And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. **52**And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

1. What did Jesus do in Jericho? Compare Matt 20:29-34 and Luke 18:35-43 with this account in Mk 10.
2. Did you notice that Mark and Matt 20 states Jesus was departing Jericho when He healed the blind men, and Luke's gospel says Jesus was approaching Jericho. Is this an error?
3. Luke and Mark's gospels give the account of one certain blind man's healing. Matthew's tells of two blind men healed. Is this an error?
4. Describe Bartimaeus and his companion (Matt 20:29-34).
5. There were a "great number of people" with Jesus, many of whom we might think important, but them Holy Spirit focuses our attention on this blind man. Why?
6. "And when he (Bartimaeus) heard that it was Jesus..." What had to happen for Bartimaeus to hear about Jesus?
7. What did Bart do when he heard about Jesus coming by?
 - a. What did some in the crowd do? Why?
 - b. How did Bart respond to their directive?
8. "And Jesus stood still..."Why?
9. Jesus commanded others to bring the man to Him. What does that teach you?
10. 50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. Why does it mention that Bart cast away his garment?
11. 51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? If Jesus asked you the same question, what would you answer?

12. Which came first: Bart's healing or his faith? What must come first to improve your vision or bring healing in some area of your life?

13. What did Bart do after he was healed?

Possible Answers

1. We don't know. Even comparing scriptures in the other gospels does not tell us what He did while He was there.

2. No. There were two Jerichos, an old city and a newer one built by Herod the Great about a quarter mile down the road from the first one. Jesus had probably come from one and was headed toward the other, when the two blind men cried out to Him to help them.

3. No. Matthew doesn't name either man, because he didn't know them and wasn't given that information by the Holy Spirit. Mark knew the name and lineage of one of them ["son of Timaeus"--"bar" in front of a name meant "son"--Peter was called Simon Bar-jona (Mt 16:17), meaning he was the son of his father, Jonas], so he included it, and focused on Bartimaeus alone. Jesus had healed many blind people in three and a half years, so one or two more was nothing unusual. When the words "certain man" are used, as in Lk 18:35, it is indicating the account is about a real person as opposed to a character in a parable.

4. Bartimaeus and his buddy were blind. They couldn't work, so they begged alms of people who were going to and fro between the Jerichos and whom they heard pass by them. That's why they are described in Lk 18:35 as "sitting by the wayside."

They already knew Who Jesus was, the Healer of Israel, because, when they heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, they immediately start crying out for His help.

5. God wants to show us that His compassion and help is available for anyone who will seek Him in sincerity. Social standing, success, and being with the in-group aren't criteria for gaining God's attention. Faith is.

6. (a) Someone had to tell that Jesus the Healer from Nazareth was near. Today there are so many who are spiritually blind and don't know that Jesus is near and that He can heal them in every way. We have to be the ones to tell them. (b) Bartimaeus had to receive the information and act on it. He had to believe Jesus could change him and he had to do something to indicate he wanted to be changed by Jesus. Faith must always be demonstrated by action. James 2:14-20 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.... as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

7. He began to cry out to Jesus for mercy. Mercy is defined as an active compassion. It assumes need on the part of the person who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of the person providing it. So, when Bart heard that Jesus of Nazareth was near, he began to

call to Him in recognition that he had a need and only Jesus had the resources to supply what he lacked. This was an evidence of his faith. b. Some told him to be quiet. Maybe they were trying to be protective, thinking Jesus was tired. Maybe they were judgmental, thinking the blindness of the men was caused by sin and they deserved no mercy, or that beggars weren't important enough to have Jesus' attention. c. Bart didn't give up, because of the opposition. He didn't give up, because his need was great. He didn't give up, because he knew there was Someone near Who could help him. He didn't give up, because he knew the impossible was possible with Jesus.

8. Cries for mercy do not go unnoticed by God. Many times they are accompanied by repentance and/or humbleness. These are things which get God's attention. Jesus was listening to the Holy Spirit, Who told Him to hear these blind men.

9. The Lord will direct us in these things. Many need to hear that Jesus is calling them and He wants to heal them.

10. That garment was used to collect the coins and alms that people passing by would toss toward the blind. It was their collection plate. In casting it away, Bart was acting in faith, virtually saying "I won't need to beg anymore; I'm going to get healed."

11. Your own answer

12. His faith; your faith...Faith is the key. You must not only believe Jesus is the Answer to your problem, but also know He is merciful and able to help you, and then act on that faith by crying out to Him. **Hebrews 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; ... Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.** (The Holy Spirit would not have written this verse for us if He had not wanted us to expect to receive the help we need.)

If he had quit too soon, or let the crowd talk him out of it, Bart would have still been blind after Jesus passed by. It was his refusal to let anything stop him from getting to Jesus that got him what he needed. He had an expectation and it was firmly situated in Jesus.

In discussing prayer, someone said, "I expect to receive today what I pray for, and if it doesn't show up today, I expect it tomorrow. I keep looking for the answer to appear any moment, because the merciful Lord Jesus is near."

13. Bart "followed Jesus in the way". Like Bart, we were all blind in times past, but, because we cried out to the Lord, believing He would help us, we received our spiritual sight in salvation. Faith was the key, obedience of calling upon Him and receiving what He offered was the action. **Romans 10:12-13 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

It is important, no, absolutely necessary, to follow the Lord in the way. There is no other way that leads to the abundance of life and blessing but His way. **Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**

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