



## Lessons for Disciples - True Sight

### Key idea:

The interaction of Jesus and Bartimaeus that led to his healing and salvation is the picture of true sight and the model of real discipleship.

### Key text:

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." <sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." <sup>52</sup> "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

### Key points:

1. The story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus occupies a key place in Mark's Gospel:
  - a. It is the final story before Jesus enters Jerusalem
  - b. It is the final healing miracle in Mark's Gospel
  - c. It is the only time the name of the person who is healed is given in Mark's Gospel!
  - d. It forms a bookend with the healing of the blind man in Mark 8:22-26
  - e. It is the close of the 'lessons on discipleship' section
2. Bartimaeus, who is physically blind, is presented as the model of one who has true sight and true faith:
  - a. True sight and faith know Jesus is the Messiah!

- b. True sight and faith openly admit my need for mercy
- c. True sight and faith respond to the call of Jesus
- d. True sight and faith are persistent in the face of opposition
- e. True sight and faith is not seeking its own glory but to follow Jesus wherever He leads

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. What literary clues does Mark give me to show that the story of Bartimaeus is more than just a story of Jesus healing a blind man? How does this help me understand this passage better?
3. Why does Bartimaeus call Jesus the Son of David? Where did this title come from? What does it indicate Bartimaeus believed about Jesus' identity?
4. Why does Bartimaeus cry out for mercy? Why has this prayer from the Psalms become such an important part of Christian prayer through the ages?
5. How often do I pray "Lord have mercy on me"? How often should I pray this?
6. How does Bartimaeus show persistence in this story? Can I think of other examples of faith in Mark's Gospel that show persistence on the part of the person seeking Jesus? Why is persistence an essential part of true faith?
7. Why is the question "What do you want?" so important in Mark's Gospel? (See Mark 6:22-25; 10:35-45; 15:9-14). How is Bartimaeus a model for a proper response? How are James and John a model for a wrong response?
8. If Jesus were to ask me "What do you want me to do for you?" what would my answer be?
9. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Good News of what Jesus has done?