

Theme: 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.

I. Key Moments in Stories and Life

A. Fields of Fire - 'Bad Moon Rising'

1. The key figure had been injured but returned to Vietnam
2. He hears this song playing - an omen that the story will change
3. I knew it the moment I read it!

B. This is a key story for Mark in his Gospel

1. It is the final story before Jesus enters Jerusalem
2. It is the final healing miracle in Mark's Gospel
3. It is the only time the name of the person who is healed is given in Mark's Gospel!
4. It forms a bookend with the healing of the blind man in Mark 8:22-26
 - a. That was the final story before Peter confesses Jesus is the Christ, answering the key question for the first half of the book - "Who is Jesus?"
 - b. Since that point the key question is "What kind of King is Jesus?" - which teaches us what kind of followers we must be.
 - c. This section ends with the healing of blind Bartimaeus
5. It is the close of the 'lessons on discipleship' section

C. Why is this story so important for Mark?

D. What does it teach me about being a disciple of Jesus?

II. A Crowd of Pilgrims

A. Jesus and the crowds at Jericho

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. Mark 10:46

1. Jericho was a key spot on the way to Jerusalem (map)
 - a. Pilgrims going to Jerusalem avoided Samaria
 - b. They would cross the Jordan, travel through Perea
 - c. Near Jericho they crossed the Jordan again
2. Jericho - an ancient (and new!) city
 - a. Jericho was one of the oldest cities in the world
 - b. But it was decayed and Herod built it anew
 - c. More in After Hours on this and reading the Gospels
 - d. it was 840 feet below sea level - over a 3,500-foot climb to get UP to Jerusalem

B. The pilgrimage is interrupted!

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. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet... Mark 10:46-48

1. A blind beggar on the road (a common sight)
2. But this one starts to shout for Jesus!
3. The crowd does not want Jesus to be bothered and tries to stop the beggar - what will he do?

4. The interaction between Jesus and Bartimaeus is what Mark wants us to see - it is the picture of true sight, and of true discipleship!

III. Bartimaeus - True Sight, True Discipleship

A. Bartimaeus has true sight to see Who Jesus is

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:47-48

1. Jesus of Nazareth - only twice in the Gospel of Mark
"What do you want with us, **Jesus of Nazareth**? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!" Mark 1:24

When he heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth**, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:47

- a. The first and last healing/deliverance in Mark
 - b. The demons first gave Jesus' identity - the Holy One of God!
 - c. Now Bartimaeus has sight to know His identity
2. Son of David - the Messianic King!
 - a. The title for the Messiah - David's Son!
 - b. Jesus will debate on this in the Temple
While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that **the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David**? Mark 12:35
 - c. Bartimaeus knows Jesus is the Messiah!

3. Have mercy on me - the afflicted's cry to God
Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony. Psalm 6:2

I said, "O LORD, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against you." Psalm 41:4

- a. In Psalms, the afflicted cry to God for mercy and help (See Psalm 4:1; 41:10; 51:1; 57:1; 86:3, 16; 119:32; 123:3)
 - b. Jesus gave this as the sinner's prayer in Luke 18:13
 - c. Bartimaeus cries out to Jesus to show him mercy and help him!
 - d. This is true sight indeed - He knows Jesus is God's channel of mercy!
4. Mark shows us that Bartimaeus has true sight for he knows the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth - He is the Son of David, his merciful Lord!

B. Bartimaeus is a model of true discipleship

1. Bartimaeus actively answers the call of Jesus
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. Mark 10:49-50
 - a. Jesus calls Bartimaeus - 'call' 3x in v49!
 - b. The crowd ignored Bartimaeus - but Jesus stopped for him!
 - c. The crowd tried to silence Bartimaeus - but Jesus called for him to come!
 - d. Only Jesus can heal and save Bartimaeus, and when Jesus calls him Bartimaeus does not just sit - he jumps up and comes to Jesus!
 - e. He may not be able to see, but he will not let anything hinder him from answering the call of the Master!

2. Bartimaeus shows true faith in Jesus

- a. "True faith knows Jesus is the Messiah (above)
 1. "Son of David" - faith that Jesus is the Messiah
 2. He calls Jesus this before anyone else in the Gospel
- b. "Have mercy on me" - he comes not by merit or with pride, but with humility asking for mercy!
- c. He shows persistence in the face of opposition

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:47-48

1. Bartimaeus has heard about Jesus and calls out
2. The crowd tries to prevent him - they obstruct the way to Jesus
3. The crowd has obstructed the path to Jesus throughout the Gospel of Mark
 - Mark 2:1-2 - friends dig thru the roof to get to Jesus
 - Mark 5:35-43 - Jairus must ignore the crowd telling him it is too late
 - Mark 7:24-30 - Syro-Phoenician woman must get past the disciples' rebuffs, and even be persistent with Jesus' test parable!
4. True faith is persistent, ignoring the objections and obstructions of the crowds, pressing in to receive from Jesus!

- d. Jesus highlights Bartimaeus' faith!
"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Mark 10:52

3. Bartimaeus is not seeking his own glory but just to follow Jesus

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." Mark 10:51

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. Mark 10:36

- a. This seems like an odd question to ask a blind man!
- b. But it is the same question Jesus asked James and John just a few verses earlier!
- c. James and John wanted personal glory and power - Bartimaeus simply wanted to be healed so he could follow Jesus!

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." **Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.** Mark 10:51-52

1. Bartimaeus' restoration of sight allows him to follow Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem and the cross!
 2. He follows Jesus along the road - this is discipleship!
 - d. A true disciple follows in the footsteps of Jesus, which is the way of rejection, suffering, and death long before it is the way of glory!
- ## 4. Mark shows that Bartimaeus is a true disciple of Jesus, for he seeks not his own glory or to go his own way, but rather to be enabled to follow Jesus, whoever that might lead.

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I have true sight, true faith in Jesus?
 1. Bartimaeus is a model of true sight and true faith
 2. He 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

3. Have I ever admitted I am blind apart from Jesus?

4. Are these markers of true sight and faith apparent in my life?

5. Cry out to Jesus for mercy today!

B. As a disciple, what do you want from Jesus?

1. "What do you want" is a key question in Mark!

- a. Herod asked Herodias' daughter - and she demanded the head of John the Baptist! (6:22-25)
- b. Pilate will ask the crowds - and they want Barabbas released and Jesus crucified! (15:9-14)
- c. Jesus asked James and John this - and they wanted personal power and glory! (10:35-45)

2. The way of the world is to seek personal power, glory, revenge, and fame.

3. But this is a temptation for disciples as well - see James and John!

4. Bob Dylan "When You Gonna Wake Up?"

Do you ever wonder just what God requires?
 You think He's just an errand boy to satisfy your wandering desires
 When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
 When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?

5. What is my answer to "What do you want me to do for you?"

- a. Nothing wrong with personal requests - my requests in Alaska
- b. What if Jesus says "No" - will I still follow Him?
- c. What is my deepest desire?
- d. Is my deepest desire to know Him and follow Him - even if that is the way of the cross?

C. The Table

1. Here we recognize Who Jesus is - our Savior Lord

2. Here we recognize who we are - sinners in need of mercy!

3. Here we come to be healed, restored, and to renew our following Jesus in the way

4. Come profess, confess, and be renewed

Lessons for Disciples - True Sight

Mark 10:46-52

June 23, 2024

Communion

Ephesians 1:17-19

Teaching keywords: Christology; salvation and deliverance; discipleship; healing

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your heart enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:17-19

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