

BLIND BARTIMAEUS



Passages to Study: Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43.

Read with the class: Mark 10:46-52.

Texts for memorization:

Younger: Mark 10:52 “Jesus said to him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.

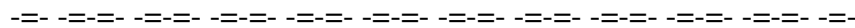
Older Mark 10:52 “Jesus said to him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.

And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.”



OBJECTIVES: To teach that:

1. Like Bartimaeus who lived in the condemned city of Jericho, everyone today lives in a condemned world.
2. Bartimaeus’ condition did not hinder him from hearing the news that the Lord Jesus was near.
3. There are people today who discourage others from seeking in Christ the change they need in their lives.
4. The source of blessing is the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who showed mercy to the needy without taking into account the social and economic situation of the individual.
5. The result in the lives of those who are given spiritual vision is that they follow the Lord Jesus.



SCENE No. 1. VISUAL AIDS: Entrance to the city of Jericho with figures of the multitude surrounding Jesus, and a figure of Bartimaeus sitting on the side of the road, with the words written, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

DEVELOPMENT:

Sug. It might be interesting for the older students to be told the story of the city of Jericho, considered one of the oldest in the world. It was a city rebuilt under a curse. See Joshua 6:26; 1Kings 16:24.

Cmt. Comparing the other gospels with the story as told in Mark, it would seem that there were two blind men, but Mark relates only the experience of Bartimaeus.

Apl. Like Bartimaeus who lived in a city that had been cursed, so the entire world in which we live is under condemnation. See Romans 3:19.

- The visit of the Lord Jesus to this city is evidence of His mercy.

Apl. It was also mercy that brought Jesus into this lost world to save us.

- Jesus was passing for the last time through Jericho, heading for Jerusalem where He would be crucified.

- Bartimaeus was unaware of the fact that he would have no further opportunity to seek the Lord’s mercy and be healed.

- When the opportunity to call on the Saviour presented itself, Bartimaeus took advantage of it.

Cns. Bartimaeus could not see, but he could hear. He could enquire, and by so doing, learned that Jesus was passing by (Mark 10:47).

- Bartimaeus probably had heard from others that Jesus performed miracles.

- Blind and poor, Bartimaeus could not hope to be able to help himself, apart from begging.

Apl. Bartimaeus is a figure of the sinner.

BLIND: he could not appreciate the beauty of the person of the Lord Jesus.

POOR: he had nothing he could offer the Lord. He had to depend on Christ’s mercy.

Apl. While it is true he was blind and poor, at least he could hear.

Cmt. The story of Bartimaeus is an excellent example of a principle found in Romans 10:17:

“...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

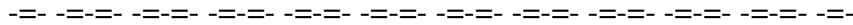
- Jesus was accompanied by a great multitude whose clamor might have drowned out Bartimaeus’ voice as he called for mercy.

- Bartimaeus paid no attention to those who tried to silence him. He kept on calling and his voice was heard by the Saviour who stopped and ordered him to be called (Mark 10:49).

BLIND BARTIMAEUS



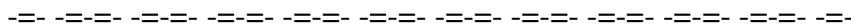
- The pressing need of Bartimaeus motivated him to ignore those who would have silenced him.
- Apl.** When a sinner recognizes his need and urgently desires to be saved, he finds that Christ is ready to answer.
- Apl.** The sinner who is desperate to be set free from his burden of sin will not allow barriers placed by others to hinder him from obtaining salvation.
- Cns.** Jeremiah 29:13 “**and ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.**”



SCENE No. 2. VISUAL AIDS: Near the city of Jericho, figures of the multitude and Bartimaeus standing before Jesus and the words written: "What wilt thou that I should do unto you?"

DEVELOPMENT:

- Cns.** Perhaps the same people who tried to silence him at first were those who now encourage Bartimaeus to rise and go in answer to the call of the Lord.
- Cns.** Ponder the possible reasons for which the people tried to silence Bartimaeus. Was it because:
 - 1) They were selfish?
 - 2) They knew nothing of the mercy of Christ? Salvation is for **ALL**.
 - 3) They supposed the Lord was as uncaring as they?
- Cmt.** Whatever their reasons, this experience would teach them a lesson about mercy and compassion as practised by the Lord Jesus.
- Cns.** In Mark 10:43-45 Jesus taught His disciples the importance of service. Now He gives an example of how it is done.
- As he arose, Bartimaeus threw aside his beggar’s cloak, for he had faith that he would need it no longer. He did not want anything to hinder him from reaching Christ as soon as possible.
- Apl.** The sinner that draws near to the Saviour for salvation leaves aside every attempt to hide his true condition.
- Salvation is not gained by seeking the Lord’s pity. The Lord Jesus desires to show **MERCY**.
- Jesus knew what Bartimaeus needed, but He asked what he wanted Him to do. This would make Bartimaeus think about what he really wanted.
- Bartimaeus had spent much of his life asking for money. He asked Jesus for his sight.
- Apl.** An unsaved person’s greatest need is the need to be saved. All other needs should be treated as unimportant, until that great need is met.



SCENE No. 3. VISUAL AIDS: A road leading out of Jericho with figures of the multitude and Bartimaeus, no longer blind, talking with Jesus, and hearing Him say, "Go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole." (Written).

DEVELOPMENT:

- Cns.** Bartimaeus’ faith brought him into contact with the only person able to meet his need.
- On receiving his sight, the first object his opened eyes would meet was the face of the Lord Jesus.
- On giving him sight, Jesus gives him permission to leave. “**Go thy way**” (Mark 10:52).
- Bartimaeus wanted to keep close to Jesus, and began following Him immediately.
- Apl.** Those who know the Lord as Saviour follow Him for they want to be near Him.
- Cns.** The Lord prefers volunteers rather than conscripts to His work.
- Bartimaeus followed Jesus willingly, glorifying God.
- This miracle caused the people to praise God (Luke 18:43).
- Apl.** The believer in Christ thanks God for salvation.
- Sug.** Mention to the students that conversion to Christ produces a new life-style different to that of unsaved companions.

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