

Remnant Life Church  
July 27, 2014

## “Spiritual Blindness; Spiritual Sight” Mark 10:46-52

- Much of Jesus’ ministry was centered around healing
  - Healing of the heart, the mind and the spirit
  - Healing of the body
    - Demonstrating the love of God
    - Demonstrating the power of God
- The story of Bartimaeus encapsulates a wonderful measure of who God is and who we need to be to respond to the opportunities we are given to receive the blessings of God into our lives
  - Synoptic Gospels record the event with Matthew stating it was two men
  - **Matthew 20; Mark 10; Luke 18**
- Setting the scene
  - Jesus and the disciples are on their final journey to Jerusalem
  - They are coming from Judea and will end up at the temple for Passover leading to the arrest, trial, death, and resurrection of Jesus (v 1)
  - Their trail takes them through Jericho (v 46)
    - 15 miles from Jerusalem
    - One of the oldest cities in the world
    - Built prior to the time of Jesus’ birth into a type of resort city by Herod the Great
- Who was this man?
  - Bar (meaning ‘son of’) Timaeus (v 46)
  - Timaeus in the Greek means “highly prized” or “favored”
  - Your name was a definitive description of who you were or what you did
    - Bartimaeus is introduced not by who he is but what he is
    - We still tend to do that today many times locking people into their past
  - The great majority of work for the common people of the day was physical labor
    - To be handicapped in any way sentenced a person to a life of poverty and depending on others (David caring for Jonathan’s crippled son Mephibosheth – **2 Sam 9**)
    - To be blind meant you would beg to survive
    - The lowest of the classes

**His response to Jesus, in spite of his condition, gives us a blueprint for receiving the blessings of God in our lives today**

1. **Sitting by the side of the road (v 46)**

- a. We must be in a right position to receive the blessing
- b. Walking in and allowing known sin to be present in our lives blocks those blessings
  - i. Daily asking forgiveness for our sins
  - ii. Daily forgiving others
  - iii. Daily monitoring how I live
  - iv. Willing to make the changes that will put things right

**2. He began to shout (v 47)**

- a. What are you willing to do to receive your blessing?
- b. “It is better to embarrass sin before it embarrasses you” – Jesse Duplantis
- c. How often do we sit quietly by and not shout out to God?
  - i. In prayer – Jesus in the garden
  - ii. In praise - Psalms
  - iii. In desperation – crying out

**3. He shouted all the more (v 48)**

- a. Are you easily dissuaded from the things of God that you are pursuing?
- b. Do you allow others to dictate your blessing?
- c. How persistent are you willing to be to see your blessing come?
- d. What was the result?
  - i. Jesus stopped! (v 49)
  - ii. This is the last recorded healing prior to the last days of His life - except for the healing of the servant’s ear (Luke 22:51)
  - iii. When was the last time that your life would have caused Jesus to stop?

**4. He threw his cloak aside and jumped to his feet (v 50)**

- a. To be seated or standing in the Bible is not just a physical posture but many times a statement of condition
  - i. To sit or be on the ground can often mean a position of defeat or distress (David after his infant son dies – (2 Sam 2:20)
  - ii. To stand could be in authority (Ex 22:36 – “who is on the Lord’s side...”) or in honor (Ex 33:8 – “when Moses went out to the tent the people stood” )
- b. The cloak was probably his only possession and vitally important to him (Duet 24:12-13)
  - i. He most likely wore the cloak across his lap to catch the coins thrown to him
- c. He was willing to throw away what defined him for a chance to meet Jesus
- d. A demonstration of faith that he would not need it anymore
- e. Too often we hold to things that we believe keep us secure when in reality they keep us blind to our sin
  - i. Chained to our past
  - ii. Chained to our forgiven sins
  - iii. Chained to the things that keep us from receiving God’s best

f. Can you throw away the things that define who you are now in order for Jesus to do a new work in you?

5. **He answered Jesus' question (v 51)**

- a. Was not what he wanted and needed obvious?
- b. Jesus (like God) never asked questions to get information – (In the Garden - **Gen 3:9**)
- c. Questions were asked for the person answering to realize a truth or need about themselves – (Cain in **Gen 4:9**)

6. **He followed Jesus when he received his sight (v 52)**

- a. What do we do after our prayers are answered?
- b. Do we follow Him or just come back when we need something else from Him?

- The name Bartimaeus means “son of favor”
  - The story of this blind beggar who receives his sight follows on the heels of the account of two disciples also asking a favor (**vv 35-45**)
  - Jesus shows that this man, a man with nothing to the natural eye, had everything in the spirit and the man who received honor and great favor
  - Jesus did not give into the request of the disciples but immediately granted what Bartimaeus asked for
- James and John were spiritually blind but Bartimaeus had perfect vision to see who Jesus was and what He could do for him - **IF** his heart was right and he had the faith to believe (**John 14:14; 16:24; Mark 11:24**)
- Do we have the faith to see regardless of our circumstances or are we blind to the truth of who Jesus is and the blessings He has for our lives to be more than conquerors all to His glory? (**Rom 8:37**)