

Eyes Be Opened

Imagine being blind, how different would your world be? Those who are blind from birth, have no idea what you are talking about when you say something is red or beautiful.

As a matter of fact they only know things look different because of what people tell them, how they describe things, often using terms that make sense to someone who can see but not to someone who can't see.

But imagine if this person who has been blind and heard all of the descriptive words that make no sense, one day gains sight. They can see "Oh, wow....THAT is what red looks like!" or "MAN, that IS beautiful"

All that they have heard about would come to life, what was once unclear or confusing, becomes clear!

The same happens with spiritual blindness. People hear about Jesus, how great He is, and they just can't really understand. No matter how you describe it, it doesn't make sense to them.

We are told in John chapter 1, the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. It takes the removal of blindness to bring clarity and understanding.

Let's look at what happens when a blind man encounters Jesus....

PRAY

Mark 10:46-52 (NKJV)

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

We see many mighty miracles throughout the New Testament especially by the works of Jesus. We see the dead raised, the sick healed, demons cast out, and like we just read....blind eyes opened.

It's easy to read about a miracle like Bartimaeus receiving his sight and only notice the miracle of blind eyes being opened. But there is so much more to this story. There is also a physical need, a spiritual need, faith, obedience, restoration, a past, and a future.

Mark 10:46 (NKJV)

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

As Jesus is coming, He has His disciples and a great multitude. This means a lot of people, a crowd of people. So Jesus is coming but He's in a crowd.

Will be be on the left or the right, will be be in the middle surrounded by people?

Then you have blind Bartimaeus sitting by the road begging. First I want to point out that blind Bartimaeus means son of Timaeus. Timaeus means "foul, defiled, polluted, or unclean".

Bartimaeus is the blind son of a foul, defiled, polluted, unclean man. Many commentaries believe that Timaeus himself was blind. Needless to say, Bartimaeus probably had a rough life. He is blind, and he is on the street begging.

He didn't even have his basic needs met. It wasn't like it is now back then. If you were blind and your family didn't take care of you, you were on the streets, fending for yourself!

But I don't see a blind beggar when I read about Bartimaeus, I see someone who had a need, and put himself in the best possible position that he knew how. One where he hoped to have his needs met by God.

As he sat there begging, this happens.

Mark 10:47 (NKJV)

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Picture this man who is in need, can't even see what is happening or who is coming, he just has himself in the best position he can to receive help. He HEARS who is coming.

Bartimaeus was blind, but not deaf. He knew who Jesus was, he has heard people telling about Jesus and the mighty things that Jesus had done. Even better, Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was the Messiah.

Bartimaeus immediately begins to cry out “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” As soon as Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was near, he didn’t wait an instant, with a loud voice he cried for help.

And he called Jesus “Son of David” a messianic title. Bartimaeus is proclaiming Jesus as the promised Messiah.....He is Savior! Bartimaeus is in need of much more than physical eyesight, He is in need of an encounter with Jesus!

Bartimaeus doesn’t say “Jesus, Healer, heal me!”, He says “Jesus, Savior, save me!”

Bartimaeus was eager to get to Jesus! He knew there was something he was missing because he heard others speaking of it. How do you know you are missing something unless someone tells you.

Romans 2:19 (NKJV)

19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

Those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior are blind, spiritually. It’s why we are called to be a guide, to tell them. If you are blind you can’t see who He is....

Mark 10:48 (NKJV)

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Bartimaeus is on the side of the road, can’t see, but knows Jesus is coming. As he cries out to Jesus, others tell him to be quiet.

Bartimaeus is a nobody, a blind beggar, son of a foul, defiled, polluted, unclean man. Keep quiet they tell Bartimaeus, you are a distraction, you are not worthy. But does he cower back? NO! He won’t let anything stand in his way of getting to Jesus!

He cries out more, much louder, with greater desire. “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

While the world wants Bartimaeus to be quiet and get to the back, he want’s Jesus at all costs and will do whatever it takes to get through to Him.

***This is a message for you today, don't let anything stop you from calling out to Jesus. It doesn't matter what people say. When you have your shot, take it! Bartimaeus saw this as maybe his only opportunity so he cried out all the more.

Jesus' response:

Mark 10:49 (NKJV)

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

Jesus hears the cry of someone in need and he stands still. Doesn't this show us how loving and caring our Lord is? In the midst of a crowd, a man cries out and Jesus stops and calls him to Himself.

1 John 5:14-15

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Don't believe that Jesus doesn't care about you. Don't believe that He is too busy for you. Don't believe that He won't respond to you.

For this blind beggar, Jesus stops and stands still. Then He says "COME TO ME"

Whatever you are going through.....come to Jesus! Sometimes people think Jesus will just magically work things out. He's not a magician, He is Lord and Savior. He's available, but you have to come to Him!

Jesus already came to us, now when we are in need we must go to Him!

Matthew 19:14 (NKJV)

14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Jesus said to Bartimaeus, COME!

And in doing this, Jesus silenced the critics. Those who may have thought that Bartimaeus was not worthy, that he was a distraction who needed to be silenced. Jesus said “No, tell him to come to me, I want that one”

Can you imagine blind Bartimaeus, sitting there, blind, crying out to Jesus. He can't see to know if Jesus is near or far. He doesn't know if Jesus can hear him or not. They tell Bartimaeus to be quiet, he yells louder. Then they say “hey cheer up, He's calling YOU!”.

This is the same guy who begins crying out to Jesus the instant he hears that Jesus is coming. No hesitation. Ans when Jesus says “come”

Mark 10:50 (NKJV)

50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

He THREW aside his garment. He didn't just set it aside, he threw it. Hello, Bartimaeus....you are blind, how are you going to find it! This was his upper garment, like maybe a jacket for us. He's probably going to need it come nightfall.

This garment would have been long like a robe. The bible doesn't say why he threw it aside as he went to Jesus. Maybe he wanted to take it off in fear that it may trip him up or somehow hinder him in coming to Jesus?

It was likely very valuable to Bartimaeus, maybe one of the few possessions that he had. He may have had that much faith, certain that after an encounter with Jesus, he would receive his sight and be able to find it.

Or maybe he didn't care. Maybe he was simply saying, there is nothing that means more, nothing I desire more than Jesus. I'm throwing away everything to go to Him and don't care if I find it. He gave up something worldly to gain something eternal.

Hebrews 12:1b (NKJV)

let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

Are you holding on to something that's keeping you from coming to Jesus? Set it down, and come to Him.

Mark 10:51 (NKJV)

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?”
The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.”

Wow, what an obvious answer to an obvious question. I bet even people who are around are thinking “Hey Jesus, that guy is blind, even I know what he wants”

It's not that Jesus didn't know, but He wanted to hear Bartimaeus say it. Jesus has a desire for us to express our needs. Saying it out loud is an expression of Bartimaeus faith. Tell Jesus what you want.

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

We are told many times in the scriptures to express our wants and needs to Jesus. He doesn't say wish and it will be granted to you or think about it and it will happen. Speak....what do you want?

Bartimaeus says to Jesus “master, I want to see”

Mark 10:52 (NKJV)

52 Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Bartimaeus wants to see, all those around him know he is blind, even reading this story, you know he is blind. Mark calls him blind Bartimaeus. We see physical sight being restored as the miracle in this text.

But Jesus tells him “your faith has made you well” This translates to “your faith has saved you.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Because of Bartimaeus faith, because he recognized Jesus as Savior, because he knew all he had to do was get to Jesus and his needs would be met. He receives salvation through faith in Jesus.

Salvation, that is the real miracle.....And immediately he received his sight, physically and spiritually. EYES BE OPENED! Not only can he see with his physical eyes, Bartimaeus is no longer in spiritual darkness!

The light has dispelled the darkness in Bartimaeus life. Here is the evidence of that.....

Let's say you have been blind, begging for a living, maybe living on the streets, and you are healed of physical blindness..... What is the first thing you would do when you receive your sight?

Go find that coat you threw off?

Find a job to get some money?

At least find a better street to live on?

Approach people that look like they have money?

Bartimaeus does none of the above as far as we know. In fact Bartimaeus is told by Jesus to "go your way" and we are told that he follows Jesus on the road!

Bartimaeus stopped at nothing to have an encounter with Jesus.

- Didn't let physical blindness stop him.
- Didn't let other people stop him.
- Didn't let his past stop him
- Didn't let his possessions stop him.

Bartimaeus went to Jesus, throwing off the past, and then when he received what he was wanting, he followed Jesus.

He goes from sitting by the road to following Jesus on the road! Everything changed the day that Jesus called Bartimaeus to Him.

WORSHIP TEAM COME

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

That is the position of many around the world. Blinded by the enemy, unable to see the glorious light that is Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior! But all it takes is following Jesus' call when He says, "Come to Me"

John 8:12 (NKJV)

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Will you come to Him today just as Bartimaeus did?

The Bartimaeus saw his need: "Lord, that I may receive my sight." The purpose of the church is to restore sight.

Why do you go to church do you want Jesus for the right reason? Do you see the same thing the blind man saw?

What keeps you from seeing your need? Perhaps your garments of self-righteousness. Cast them away and come to Jesus.

We who are In Christ are all Bartimaeus. We need to step into our calling by throwing off our old cloak – throw off those old things that belong to our life outside of Christ, because once we abandon the old, we immediately position ourselves to receive from God the new and better thing He has for us.