

Shouting in Jericho, Part 2

(Mark 10:46-52)

(preached 7/26/15 Pine Grove BC)

Please take your Bibles and turn with me to the gospel of Mark.

To begin our time looking at God's Word together, I want to read the passage that is before us this morning..

Mark 10:46-52....

This is the description of Jesus' encounter with a blind beggar named Bartimaeus.

This is the final section of chapter 10 as we rapidly approaching the end of Jesus' life and coming crucifixion.

Let me read this passage for us this morning...

Mark 10:46...

46 Then they *came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many were sternly telling him to be

*quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him here.” So they *called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.” 50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. 51 And answering him, Jesus said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And the blind man said to Him, “[q]Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!” 52 And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has [r]made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.*

Let us pray.

As a child, my dad owned a number of dogs.

He loved to hunt birds along with my grandfather so he always had German short hair pointers..

They were amazing hunting dogs and retrieving dogs, and when I was old enough, my dad went to buy me one of my own..

We got that puppy home and he died within a matter of days...

I didn't understand what happened to my dad, and "he told me we picked a lemon of a dog."

Being 5 or 6, I had no idea what a lemon was, so I asked my dad to explain...

He said our dog must have been the runt of the litter...

And though I still didn't know what that meant, I decided not to ask anymore...

However as I grew older, I figured out what the runt of the litter was...

It was the puppy that seemed to be weaker or smaller or more sick than the other puppies of the group...

It often was at a disadvantage at feeding time; sometimes, it was mistreated by his brothers or sisters..

Simply put, the runt had a hard time as a puppy.

If he survived, it seemed he had to work harder than the rest..

Now, what does that have to do with the gospel of Mark?

If you have been here for most of the gospel of Mark, you have learned a lot of the Lord Jesus Christ....

You have seen his power, his authority.

You have witnessed the fact that He is God in the flesh.

But you have also seen his incredible compassion and mercy.

And if anything, Jesus often showed so much compassion for the runts of society.

The crippled, the sick, the demon-possessed were all recipients of his incredible compassion and mercy.

The people that society turned their back upon, Jesus opened up his hands to help.

And as we finish up chapter 10 today, we are preparing to finish up the final days of Jesus life...

When chapter 11 begins next week, Jesus walks into Jerusalem in what we often call the Triumphal Entry.

However, it didn't end so triumphant for our Lord.

The same people that cried out in welcoming him to town were crying out to nail him to a cross in a few days...

The triumphant entry became the tragic execution.

Yet with perfect knowledge of what lay ahead of Him, Jesus never stop ministering to people along the way....

Today we are going to see the physical healing and the spiritual healing of a blind man named Bartimaeus.

And though this is the last healing miracle that Jesus will perform, it is not the last salvation that we will see...

Because in the final days of Jesus ministry, 3 more people are going to get saved as well.

Though Mark doesn't record it, Zaccaheus is also going to get saved...

Along with a Roman centurion standing beneath the cross, and a convicted thief hanging beside Jesus on his own cross...

And what do we see in those 4 salvations in the final days of Jesus' ministry?

We see the incredible compassion of God on display to the bottom of society...

We have a despised blind beggar get saved....

We have a despised tax collector get saved...

We have a despised Roman soldier get saved...

And we have a convicted criminal get saved...

All in the final days of Jesus' life...

Yet, what is the purpose in these 4 salvations at the very end of Jesus' time on earth?

What do they teach us as people?

What do they teach us as believers?

I would offer a few thoughts here as we prepare our hearts to look at the salvation of Bartimaeus this morning

First, we need to see that the downcast of society are never beyond the Lord's reach...

God saves the lowly who call upon Him in faith.

God hears the cry of the outcast who desires to be saved...

Even when others think a person is beyond the Lord's reach, God reaches down and changes a heart to trust in Him.

Second, we also see in these final salvations the truth that the way to heaven is narrow and the gate is small and few will find it...

The simple truth is that there are going to be crowds all around Jesus in his final days on earth...

Just like there have been crowds around Him from the very beginning of his ministry...

Yet, the truth is that those crowds full of 1000s of people are not going to respond to Him in faith and repentance...

Instead, they are going to shout to kill Him.

The crowds aren't following out of saving faith, they are following out of curiosity and to satisfy their need to know everything.

The fact that we only see 4 people out of these large crowds saved is further proof that many are on the broad road that leads to destruction...

While only a few have found the narrow way...

Third, I think we see in these final salvations an incredible truth about the Lord Jesus Christ...

It is truth that we have seen time and time again...

And it is this...

God is a saving God full of compassion and mercy..

If there was ever a time on Jesus' life to be distracted, you would imagine that the days leading up to his death would be that time...

Yet, despite the ridicule, despite the torture, despite the rejection, despite the persecution of Him, Jesus never loses focus on why he came to earth....

And that was to seek and save that which was lost, and HE did just that up until his final few breaths...

In Mark 10, we are not up to those final few breaths of his life just yet, but we are going to see one of those final salvations in the person of Bartimaeus.

We will follow a simple outline this morning for these verses...

In verses 46-48, we will see The Cry of Faith....

And then in verses 49-52, we will see The Reply to Faith...

Let's return to verse 46 for a minute to set the scene and meet the man....

I. The Cry of Faith (46-48)

We are continuing our walk with Jesus to the cross in Jerusalem where He will be killed as the ultimate Passover Lamb.

He has left Perea, and he is headed up to Jerusalem...

This would be a common occurrence this time of year as many Jews would be headed up to Jerusalem from all over Israel for Passover...

Jesus is headed there with his disciples...

He has already told them what will happen to him in Jerusalem.

Yet, the disciples continue to follow him and now a large crowd is also around Jesus and the disciples...

Word has probably gotten out that Jesus, who claims to be the Messiah, is headed up to Jerusalem for Passover.

Since other Jews would be making the same trip, a crowd is forming around Jesus.

And as this crowd of people are headed to Jerusalem from Perea, they pass through Jericho...

Here is a map of the area...

You can see that Jesus is coming from the east side of the Jordan River in the area around the Dead Sea up to Jerusalem...

And Jericho would be long the road up to Jerusalem..

Now, Jericho is still a really low town, almost 900 feet below sea level, but it is a very beautiful city...

Because it is close to the Jordan River, which make it a very fertile and easily irrigated.

It is known as the city of Palms because so many palm trees grow there..

Most of you know the name of Jericho from the OT, where Joshua and Israel marched around the city 7 days, blew their horns and shouted, and the walls fell down...

That is this same area in Mark 10 that Jesus is now walking through with his disciples and large crowd.

While near Jericho, Jesus hears the shouts of a blind man sitting by the road.

To get a clear understanding of this scene, we need to understand the challenges that the blind faced in Jesus' day.

Obviously, there are enormous challenges for the blind even in our day, but it would have been much worse for the blind in Mark 10.

Today, the blind have multiple resources to turn to for help.

They have a written language that can connect them to the world.

They have schools and agencies to help them live productive lives.

There are even career choices for the blind today.

This was not the case for most of history, where the blind were often forced to beg for a living...

And that is why Bartimaeus would have been near the road on this day.

This increased his opportunity to encounter more people who would hopefully offer up some charity to him.

Furthermore, Jews saw the blind as being under the curse of God.

They viewed them as unclean and nuisances who needed to be shunned by the world.

As Jesus is leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus hears that Jesus is approaching...

So, he takes action...

Now, little Zacchaeus had to climb a tree to see Jesus...

A crippled man had to be lowered to the roof to meet Jesus...

A woman with a horrible disease had to grab Jesus by his clothes.

And a blind man named Bartimaeus simply called out his name.

Do you know salvation always requires?

It requires the desperation of the sinner!

Climbing a sycamore tree, being lowered through a ceiling, taking hold of Jesus' clothing, crying out his name are all the actions of desperate people...

IF you are desperate this morning, you can't be saved...

And if you have never been desperate for a Savior,
you have never been saved...

The salvation offered by the Lord Jesus Christ is not
for the one who is comfortable, it is for the one who
is uncomfortable in his sin...

And desperately needs a Savior....

How desperate is Bartimaeus?

He keeps on calling on Jesus, and when other try to
discourage him, he moves on to shouting louder....

Look at verses 47 and 48...

***47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene,
he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David,
have mercy on me!" 48 Many were sternly telling
him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the
more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"***

That is the call of desperation because that is the
call that cannot be silenced...

I am amazed at people who step foot in a church for
a while and then leave and say, "I gave Jesus a try,
and He just really isn't for me."

That is not a desperate person.

For one, they don't understand how bad they are...

And two, they have no idea of how great a Savior Jesus is...

If Jesus isn't for you, then you surely aren't fit for Him either..

Salvation doesn't come through experimentation, it comes through desperation.

Jesus is not available to those who only want to try Him on to see if He fits their lifestyle.

Jesus is only available to those who see him as their only solution to their overwhelming problem of sin against a holy God.

True desperation is not giving Jesus a trial period in your life...

True desperation is a complete sell out of your life to following Christ.

That is the gospel, and Bartimaeus understands that, and even when he is told to be silent, he gets louder and louder....

And his words show that he has a correct understanding of who Jesus is...

Son of David, Son of David...

This was a title that every Jew knew exactly what it meant.

It was title that only the Messiah could hold...

It was a title that belonged only to the King who would come to conquer Israel's enemies...

And it was a title that only belonged to the One who would die to take away sin once and for all...

Bartimaeus was saying a mouthful when he called out for the Son of David...

Because in those words, he was expressing the faith that had already filled his heart.

This man approaching was Israel's long awaited Messiah.

And Bartimaeus could not contain the faith that was welling up inside of him....

Son of David, Son of David, have mercy on me.

If you want to be truly saved, you must have a right view of who Jesus is...

He is God's Son, sent to die in your place to pay the price of our sin.

And Bartimaues had a right view of Jesus, but he also had a right view of himself...

Look at what he says...

Have mercy on me.

I shudder in fear when I watch preachers and folks who call themselves Christians make demands of God.

"I command you to heal me."

"I command you to provide me a new house."

"I command you to give me a new job."

There is one place for every man to be in relation to God, and that is the place of submission...

That is the place where you have a right view of God and a right view of you...

And when you get that right, you realize that all you can do is beg for mercy....

That is exactly what Bartimaeus does...

He sits and begs for mercy.

Bartimaeus may be blind, but he has a clear picture of who Jesus is...

And he has a clear vision of who he is...

And when those two truths collide, an amazing thing happens...

Now that we have seen THE CRY OF FAITH....

Lets look at.....

II. The Reply to Faith (49-52)

49 And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him here.”

What an incredible statement...

Jesus stopped and told Bartimaeus to come to Him.

What an incredible picture of compassion!

Jesus did not come to be served but to serve, and here He is stopping in his tracks to rescue a desperate blind beggar.

For the saved in here today.....

Aren't you glad that Jesus heard your cry when you called to Him?

Aren't you forever grateful that the Savior didn't pass you by when you called out to Him in faith?

An uncaring God is too busy to be distracted with the cries of a blind beggar...

But a caring and saving God will stop in His tracks when he hears a cry of faith....

So Jesus calls him over, and Bartimaeus jumps up, leaves his cloak behind and goes to Jesus.

His cloak would have been an important part of who he was as a beggar.

He may have had it wrapped around him or most likely, he was sitting on it...

Either way, the cloak would have been used to keep any offerings that people had given him...

And to toss it aside would have been unheard of for a beggar.

Everything he possessed was probably contained in that outer garment...

Yet when Christ calls, nothing is more important than responding to Him..

So, he jumps and heads to Jesus...

And then interestingly, Jesus asks him the same question that he asked James and John last week...

“What do you want me to do for you?”

Those disciples had their sights set on great seats in the kingdom...

Bartimaues simply wants his sight....

“Rabboni, I want to regain my sight.”

Rabboni simply means “Master” or “Lord”.

1 Cor 12:3...

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

If we had any doubts left of whether Bartimaues is a believer in Jesus Christ, this is even further proof that this blind beggar is now in the kingdom of God.

No one calls Jesus Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

No one see Jesus as Lord except by the Holy Spirit..

No one obeys Jesus as Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

If you are looking for evidence that Bartimaues is saved, the case is very strong already..

He has a right view of Jesus as Messiah...

He has a right view of himself as an unworthy beggar who needs mercy...

He has a persistence faith that will not be silenced...

And now he has a clear view of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in his life...

And now he is simply asking if Jesus would help him regain his sight...

Maybe this means that he lost his sight at some point in life.....

Not completely sure of that...

But what we do know is that Bartimaeus simply wants his blindness healed...

Many people look at this passage and say that Jesus healed him and then Bartimaues believed...

I hold a different view...

I see God healing his spiritual blindness first, and then healing his physical blindness...

How can a man call upon the Lord apart from having his heart changed first by God?

And that is exactly what we see here...

His God-given faith made him call Jesus the Son of David...

His God-given faith made him continue to cry out when others said to hush...

Bartimaeus had spiritual sight a few moments before he received his physical sight...

And the fact that his life would never be the same is not because he had physical eyes to see the world...

It is because he now had spiritual eyesight like never before in his life...

And in verse 52, Jesus even declares that it was his faith has made him well in more ways than one.

Look at the end of verse 52...

“Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.”

Two things for us to take note of here...

First of all, we see something that we have seen before in the gospel of Mark....

When Jesus heals you, it is not take two aspirin and call me in the morning....

IT is immediate healing.

This isn't I came to the stadium in a wheelchair, am I am leaving on crutches...

This is... "I can't see at all, and now I see perfectly and immediately..."

When Jesus heals someone, He heals them completely and immediately...

But then the second thing to think about in these closing words is this....

Bartimaeus began following Jesus on the road...

Put yourself in his shoes...

Haven't seen in years; possibly, he was even born blind...

Yet, now that he sees, there is but one option...

Follow Jesus.

He didn't think of running to lay eyes on his family if he had one.

He didn't think of running to check on the beauty of Jericho.

He didn't run to deal with any selfish needs in his life...

He was saved, he was healed, and he was loyal to His Lord.

That is true discipleship in every sense of the word...

This is not a man or a woman coming to Jesus to see if HE can meet their need, then moving on once its over....

This is not like so many others who come to Jesus when times are bad, but then vanish when things improve.

This is a true picture of what true salvation looks like.

This is putting your hand to the plow and not looking back.

Bartimaeus had every reason to take off and never be heard from again...

There would be so much to do now that he could see, but even with that great gift of sight....

There was but one place he wanted to be...

Right by his Lord and Savior's side on the way to Jerusalem.

True disciples don't turn back; they stay with Christ to the very end..

We know that the early church was a very small group of people...

In the book of Acts after Jesus had been crucified, resurrected and his ascended to heaven....

The believers in Him all gathered together in Jerusalem.

And to illustrate how few people believed in Jesus, there were only 120 people there...

Though we aren't sure about who all was there, some records indicate that a man named Bartimaeus was in that crowd of 120...

Just think what all those new eyes had seen by that time...

He had watched his Lord be arrested, tried, crucified, resurrected, and then ascend to heaven...

Though his eyes may have been blind for years, they were opened by Jesus just in time to witness the greatest events in the history of the world...

Conclusion

I entitled this message....

“Shouting in Jericho, Part 2”

You amy ask, “Well, when was part 1 of shouting in Jericho?”

And like I mentioned before....

Part 1 was when Israel marched around that city, blew their trumpets, and then shouted and the walls of Jericho fell down....

And the city was destroyed by Israel...

It is one of the greatest miracles in the OT, and a story that nearly every kid who comes to Sunday school has heard...

Yet as great as that miracle was, the shout of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:48 was an even greater miracle...

Because that shout did some greater than knock down a city wall...

That shout opened the eyes of the spiritually blind....

That shout of a blind beggar gave life to the dead...

It brought salvation to the sinner...

Bartimaeus' shout did something much greater than the shouts of the people in the book of Joshua...

It changed Bartimaeus life and his eternity forever.

That doesn't mean you need to literally shout out to be saved today, but it does mean that you need to call on the name of the Lord to be saved.

Have you called on the name of the Lord to save you?

You don't need to shout over the crowd this morning, you can simply call upon the Lord in the quietness of your heart right where you sit...

And the same Lord Jesus who heard Bartimaeus' cry of faith, will hear your cry of faith today...

You may be that blind beggar on the road today, and this may be your only look at Jesus passing by this morning...

There may never be another encounter with Jesus in your life...

Today is the day to call upon the Lord, repent of your sins, and trust him with your life....

Let us pray.