

## **Mark 10:46-52 – The Faith Of Blind Bartimaeus**

Jesus and the disciples were travelling to Jerusalem. They came through the town of Jericho. There, there was a blind man called Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus gives us a great example of what true faith is and how we can gain salvation.

### **1) Faith sees who Jesus really is**

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming, he cried out to him “Jesus, Son of David”. This was a title which meant that Bartimaeus was saying that Jesus was the Messiah, the promised Saviour. King David had defeated Israel's enemies and brought peace and prosperity to Israel. The promised Messiah would defeat Satan and bring peace with God and spiritual blessing to his people. Though the Pharisees and leaders rejected Jesus, Bartimaeus believed he was truly the one sent by God. He had blind eyes, but he saw spiritual truths clearly! True faith sees the truth about Jesus. Do you? He is not just a good teacher, a good example, or a powerful healer. He is the great King whom God sent from heaven to be punished for our sins. Have you seen that?

### **2) Faith cries out to Jesus even in the dark**

Bartimaeus did not only know who Jesus was. He also cried out to him for mercy! We only deserve anger and punishment from God. Any good thing from God is *mercy*. If we know who Jesus is, we must beg him to take away our sins. Bartimaeus could not see where Jesus was, or go to him. But he could cry out – so he did. Then he was brought to Jesus. In the same way, perhaps you do not know much spiritually, and feel very confused and in the dark. But you can still cry out to Jesus for help – and you must. He will help you!

### **3) Faith refuses to be stopped**

Bartimaeus was a “nobody” - he was poor, weak and helpless. But he knew that he had to cry out to Jesus – he had nowhere else to go. So he did ! The people in the crowd were not happy. They told him to be quiet. But this made Bartimaeus only cry out more loudly. There are many discouragements to true faith – but true faith will overcome them all. We must keep searching until we find the Lord. The way is narrow and few find it (Matthew 7:14). We must not allow anyone to stop us. There is no other Saviour except Jesus – if we do not find forgiveness from him, we will never find it. Let nobody discourage you from seeking Jesus.

### **4) Faith is rewarded and faith follows**

Bartimaeus' faith brought him into the presence of Jesus. Therefore, he gained what he needed. Faith itself does not have power – but true faith brings us to Jesus, and Jesus has all power. He also has all kindness, and so he gave Bartimaeus what he needed. This is all showing us the way of salvation. We should not think that Jesus always intends to heal believers; the earthly healing illustrated the way to spiritual healing. “Faith” that desires riches and kingdoms is not true faith – remember (last week, 10:35-45) that Jesus rebuked James and John for their selfish request. After Bartimaeus was healed, he did not look for a job or friends to celebrate with, but immediately followed Jesus. *If your faith is real, you will do the same.*