

## Passages Preceding Sermon

### Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.  
To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

**Title:** The One Who Gives Sight to the Blind

**Passage:** Mark 10:46-52

### **Context of Passage:**

Jericho - two key stories

- Bartimaeus, blind beggar
- Zacchaeus

### Luke 19:1-2

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.

**Passage:** Mark 10:46-52

And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 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!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabboni, let me recover my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

### **Introduction:**

"Better to be blind and see with your heart than to have two good eyes and see nothing." (Helen Keller)

"Can you see Jesus in the dark? Yes. We sometimes see Him better in the dark than in the light." (Charles Spurgeon)

Question: Who in your life may God bring to help change from being blind to having sight?

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Overview:**

- I. Bartimaeus condition
- II. Bartimaeus cry
- III. Crowd's contempt
- IV. Jesus' compassion
- V. Jesus question
- VI. Bartimaeus cure
- VII. Bartimaeus conversion

### **I. Bartimaeus condition**

Mark 10:46

And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

*Sitting by the roadside*

- roadsides were filled with poor and sick.

Matthew 9:35

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

*Blind*

- considered as a divine curse

John 9:1-2

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

*Bartimaeus...the son of Timaeus*

- passage is only account where the one who is healed is named.
- Name meaning: "son of honor"
  - Contrasted his original condition where he was blind and outcast

### **II. Bartimaeus cry**

Mark 10:47

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!"

*Jesus, Son of David*

- Recognized that Jesus as the Messiah (the Anointed One)
  - Jesus = God who saves
  - Son of David = Messianic title

Luke 4:16-21 (Jesus reading Messianic prophecy)

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*he began to cry out and say,*

- cry = screaming out of desperation

Mark 9:24

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

*Have mercy on me!*

- Recognized his condition - he was a sinner and needed mercy

### **III. Crowd's Contempt**

Mark 10:48

And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

*And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.*

- Bartimaeus was an outcast and disdained.
- Contempt of the blind beggar was by many, including Jesus disciples.
- Indifference to lost = contempt of lost

Questions of Reflection:

- How can one be a disciple of Jesus and at the same time be a barrier to people coming to meet Jesus?
  - Do we sense inconvenience to one's own personal preferences?

- "I don't want to invite someone to church or tell about the Gospel because that would disrupt my schedule and occupy my time" - all about me.
- Do we avoid people to be outreached who would be a nuisance or burden to us?
- Is God putting someone on your mind to whom you can reach out to with the Gospel?
  - If not, pray for God's mercy to soften and open up your heart.

#### **IV. Jesus compassion**

##### Mark 10:50

And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

*And Jesus stopped*

- Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem; He was on His way to the cross.

*"Call him"*

- Jesus had compassion to instruct and have Bartimaeus brought to Him.

##### Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you."

*And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.*

- being blind, someone brought Bartimaeus to Jesus.

##### Romans 10:14-15

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

#### **V. Jesus Question**

##### Mark 10:51

And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight."

*What do you want me to do for you?*

- same question Jesus asked of selfish disciples wanting to be elevated
- Here, Jesus asked of a humble sinner.

*And the blind man said to him, "Rabboni, let me recover my sight."*

- Rabboni = personal master
- Same as Mary's response to seeing Jesus on resurrection morning.

John 20:16

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

## **VI. Bartimaeus' Cure**

Mark 10:52a

And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well."

Matthew 20:34

And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

Luke 18:42

And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well."

- the outer healing reflected the inner healing of his soul.

## **VII. Bartimaeus Conversion**

Mark 10:52b

And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way

- true conversion reflects its evidence in obedience to and worship of God

Luke 18:43

And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

## **APPLICATION**

### ***Know the Lord Jesus' compassion***

- in your situation, Jesus sees you.
- Jesus is near to you.

James 4:8a

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

### ***Know the Lord Jesus comes to those who know their need for mercy.***

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.