

THE HEALING OF THE PHYSICALLY BLIND

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : Mark 10:46-52

LESSON 185 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long" (Psalm 35:28).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.

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

⁴⁸ And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

⁴⁹ And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

⁵⁰ And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

⁵² And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Importunate Plea of Bartimaeus for Mercy

1 Bartimaeus sits by the highway begging as Jesus passes by, Mark 10: 46;

Matthew 20:29-34

²⁹ And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.

³⁰ And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, *thou* Son of David.

³¹ And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, *thou* Son of David.

³² And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?

³³ They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.

³⁴ So Jesus had compassion *on them*, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Luke 18:35-43

³⁵ And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

³⁶ And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

³⁷ And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

³⁸ And he cried, saying, Jesus, *thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

³⁹ And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

⁴⁰ And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

⁴¹ Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

⁴² And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise unto God.

2 Bartimaeus cries for mercy, Mark 10:47;

Luke 18:13

¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

3 There is an unsuccessful attempt to silence him, Mark 10:48;

Ezra 4:4-5

⁴ Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

⁵ And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Nehemiah 4:7-9

⁷ But it came to pass, *that* when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

⁸ And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

Zechariah 3:1

¹ And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

1 Corinthians 16:9

⁹ For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and *there are many adversaries.*

II The Reward of Faith

1 Jesus, hearing his cry, sends for him, Mark 10:49

2 Bartimaeus casts away his garment and comes to Jesus,
Mark 10:50;

Hebrews 12:1

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

3 Through faith his sight is restored and he follows Jesus,
Mark 10:51, 52

NOTES:

Jesus' ministry was fast drawing to a close. He had called the twelve unto Him and told them that they were going up to Jerusalem and that there He would be condemned and put to death. It was His last journey through Jericho. His fame had gone abroad, and multitudes were following Him. The admiration for Him had grown, and soon the multitudes were to cry, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Luke 19:38).

Faith

Beside the highway that led from Jericho to Jerusalem sat two beg-: gars. Perhaps there were more. But these two, of whom Matthew 20:30 tells, had faith. Faith is trust and confidence in God. It is a belief that God means what He says. When the Word of God says, "One man of you shall chase a thousand" (Joshua 23:10), faith causes a man to rise up to meet the thousand. Faith is not only the thing that brings the blessing, but is a part of everything received from God. It is the substance of things hoped for. It was through faith that men of old subdued kingdoms, and women had their dead raised to life again. Faith can be exercised by our putting into practice that which we believe concerning the things of God.

Compassion

Only a few days lay between Christ and Calvary. It was less than twenty miles between Jericho and Jerusalem. But Jesus carried on His mission of mercy; to the very end He had compassion. He restored the ear that was cut off by the sword of Peter in the Garden, and He saved the thief on the cross.

Now, as Christ leaves Jericho, the keen ear of blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, discerns the steps of the approaching multitude. With a companion as blind as he, though not so well known, Bartimaeus inquires the meaning of the oncoming throng. Hope surges within him as he passes the word to his companion that it is Jesus. Together their cries ring out, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David" (Matthew 20:30). The crowd rebukes them. The sentiments are: Trouble not the Master; He should not be bothered with poor blind beggars. But the Son of David has mercy on them.

Quietness

Has the crowd ever told you: "Be quiet, it is no use"; "You are too young"; "You are throwing your life away"; "It is not necessary to pray so much"; "There is no hurry"; "You are making a fool of yourself"? Never mind the crowd. Go after Him. He is compassionate — merciful. All Nineveh cried mightily unto God, and He spared their city. Hezekiah wept sore, and God added to his life fifteen years. Though Satan rage and all hell may hinder, we can plow our way through. The multitude will halt, the tumult will cease, and we will hear His voice, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"

Darkness

Bartimaeus was not easily silenced. No doubt for years he had yearned to see the light of day. The beauties of nature were unknown to him. Not only that, but his means of livelihood were lost in the darkness. To beg was not his desire. It was hard to be left at the mercy of the almsgiver. Beating his way about with a cane, groping, stumbling, always in blackness — do you wonder that Bartimaeus cried out?

When a sinner realizes his true condition — that he is "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17), he, too, cries out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." Would God that all sinners realized that they are walking in darkness, stumbling toward eternal damnation! Oh, that they might cry out to the Savior for mercy!

Weights

"Jesus stood still." The Son of God, the Creator of all things, stopped, at the cry of a beggar. The crowd pushed Bartimaeus aside, but Jesus commanded that he be brought unto Him. "He calleth thee." That was enough for this son of Timus. He cast aside his garment and came to Jesus. Many today are not willing to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset" (Hebrews 12:1). Some people are not willing to lay aside their prejudices. Others hold on to their self-righteousness or good works, expecting to merit God's favor. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Until a person has been redeemed, his only hope is to come like the blind men seeking the mercy of God.

Confession

When Bartimaeus came, Jesus asked, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" The blind man said unto Him, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." Here was a confession of blindness and a desire to get out of it. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). It would be foolish for a blind man to deny his blindness; but it is equally foolish for a man who has sinned to deny it or try to cover his sin.

Healing

Upon hearing the petition of Bartimaeus, Jesus replied, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." Faith brought sight to the blind man. In Mark 11:24 we read that Jesus said: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Through faith in God, many miracles of healing are wrought today. God wants his people to trust Him for healing. He told Israel, "I am the

LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). Healing for both soul and body is provided in the atonement of Jesus upon the cross. Isaiah prophesied: "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

The children of God are not to trust in doctors or medicine for the healing of their bodies but are instructed: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James 5:14, 15). The same Jesus whom Bartimaeus followed down the Jericho road that day is still healing the sick today. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

QUESTIONS

- 1 Find Scripture references where lack of spiritual sight is called blindness.
- 2 Trace the history of Jericho through the Bible.
- 3 Make a parallel between Bartimaeus seeking sight and a sinner seeking salvation.
- 4 Name Some of the good qualities that Bartimaeus possessed.
- 5 Substantiate the doctrine of Divine Healing by the Scriptures.
- 6 What verses of Scripture indicate that Christians should trust God for healing instead of depending upon doctors and medicine?
- 7 Give a definition of faith.
- 8 Name some of the things that the Bible tells were wrought through faith.