

Bartimaeus.....Son of one worthy of honour
A description that may have been true for his father.....NOT for him
For he was blind.....and therefore a beggar....in an age

Yet for Bartimaeus.....There was one season.....things got a little better
PASSOVER

So on this partic day Bartimaeus was sitting.....heard the commotion
Others became his eyes as he asked

- **It is here that we see his Faith** _____ (Jesus would later commend)
Beginning to blossom

Others saw.....as Jesus of Nazareth
He saw him as **JESUS, SON OF DAVID**
A Messianic title for the Saviour who had been promised

And especially the One who Isaiah spoke about when he said:

Isaiah 35:5 "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped."

And then again in 42:16

***"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn
the darkness into light before them and make the
rough places smooth. These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them."***

Is it any wonder that Bartimaeus shouted in order to gain His attention
And that he couldn't be stopped

- **And Jesus heard him**

Though Jesus was so focused.....HE Heard
And He made time to stop.....and to heal a beggar.....who believed

And that's just like Jesus still

He hears every cry.....Including the cry of your heart this morning

- **And Jesus said→ Call him** Such a simple but profound instruction

It's interesting to note that this word call.....Appears three times v49

"Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him'. So they called to the blind man, 'Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.'"

- That's the progression that should still happen today with us:
Jesus instructs us to call
We call out to those around us
Then we tell them that Jesus is calling them

Then once again we see the faith of Bartimaeus

As he casts off his beggars coat.....Symbol.....Tool of his trade

As he jumps to his feet.....comes to Jesus

It is then that the Lord puts his growing faith to the test

HE asks "What do you want me to do for you?"

- There is no doubt that Jesus was challenging him to declare his Faith
And He still expects the same from those who would follow....
- **What we need to realise tho**is that when he cried....have mercy/pity
He was using the same words.....

(Remember early in Acts.....John and Peter meeting the lame man...)

- **Jesus was also asking**.....What is it that you really want from me?
Just money ?? The quick fix for today.....OR something lasting

And just for a moment this morning

We need to stop and ask ourselves

How are we answering.....What do we want Jesus to do for us?

- **Bartimaeus had no hesitation** Rabbi, I want to see
And see he did.....Not just physically but spiritually.....Followed Him

He became a public testimony

A catalyst for the cry of Palm Sunday → Hosanna to the Son of David

This is the final healing.....and it is a Great story

But it is also a challenging story.....as far as we who follow....are concerned

For it was mainly the followers.....made up that crowd

And it was obvious.....Little time for a Blind Beggar !!!!

- **They tried to keep him from experiencing Jesus**
- **I wonder why?**

- His type didn't deserve or need
- He was a distraction to their own focus on Jesus
- They had decided that what he wanted from Jesus was wrong

Whatever.....the end result was that they had no time for

- **Did they want this blind man to see??.....**
Neither wanted NOR didn't want APATHETIC.....great unnoticed

- **Jesus changed them when He said.....CALL**

That became their message of GOOD NEWS.....gladly gave

Suddenly they found they did have time.....And opportunity

THE spiritually blind are all around us....Do we have time for them?
Do we care that they don't see ???

- **It's only the touch of** Jesus on our hearts.....cause us to care

This morning I'm prepared to ask Jesus to touch my heart for
Are you ??????

And I'm ready to ask Him and trust Him to enable me
To be all He wants me to be when He answers.

- **But I'm also aware** that the way He uses.....varies...from person
..from moment to.....from experience to.....

But above all other ways

He uses us best when we use our lives to reflect His love.....

With that thought in mind.....I want to finish with a poem

It's one that Lee Strobel quotes in his book: God's outrageous claims

Sent to him by a non-Christian lady....recently been brought along p84