

Mark 10.46-52

Sight for the Blind

Obscure STORY about KING DAVID'S Conquest of Pagan City of JERUSALEM

David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years...The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; *even the blind and the lame can ward you off.*" They thought, "David cannot get in here." Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David. On that day, David said, "Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those *'lame and blind'* who are David's enemies." That is why they say, *"The 'blind and lame' will not enter the palace."*

2 Samuel 5.4-8

Some CHARGE David was HEARTLESS > No SENSITIVITY to DISABLED  
They FORGET his UNUSUAL Kindness to MEPHIBOSHETH Son of Jonathan  
**TAUNT of Jebusites** who held Jerusalem > MOCKED David's Power & Prestige  
BRAGGED of their STRONG-HOLD of Jerusalem > *You'll Never Get in Here!*  
CLEVER David & Troops SNUCK IN through the WATER PIPES!

David RETURNS TAUNT to Jebusites from Inside City: **YOU're BLIND & Lame**  
Too FOOLISH & POWERLESS / Blind & Lame / to Get BACK in MY CITY  
NOW DAVID'S CITY > Israel's CAPITAL > God's CITY for GOD'S NATION

Today's Text > LAST Miracle Recorded by Mark

ABUNDANCE of PROOF is Established > Jesus is VERY GOD in Human Flesh  
END of Jesus' PRIVATE TEACHING of DISCIPLES

**END of SILENCE about WHO is JESUS > BOLD DECLARATION of Him**  
**Coming to PINNACLE of His Mission in Jerusalem > OPENLY PRAISED**

NOT by PHARISEES – they’re ORCHESTRATING his MURDER

NOT by RICH YOUNG RULER – went away SAD to enjoy his Empty Kingdom

NOT his DISCIPLES – busy POSTURING for POSITIONS of Personal GLORY

PRAISED by UNLIKELY Follower > **BLIND Man – Sees MORE than MOST**

BLIND Man – Healed by David’s Son – ENTER the PALACE in God’s City

**READ TEXT-----**

v. 46 Then they came to Jericho. JERICHO > 30 kms Northeast of JERUSALEM

TWO Cities named JERICHO – OLD City in Ruins / NEW City ONE Mile Away  
Helps Explain Seeming CONTRADICTION –

v. 46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were *leaving the city*

*As Jesus approached Jericho*, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

Luke 18:35

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. *Two blind men* were sitting by the roadside

Matthew 20:29-30

BOTH Mark and Luke focus on ONE Man > ONLY Mark gives his NAME

## 1. Finding Jesus

## 2. Following Jesus

### 1. Finding Jesus

#### a. Difficulties: Can’t See!

v. 46 a blind man...was sitting by the roadside begging

BLIND BEGGAR sitting by CITY GATE would be COMMON Sight in Near East

HARD LIFE > Get UP in MORNING – DRESSED, FED, GROOMED

Get OUT to MAJOR JUNCTION to BEG > EXPOSED to WEATHER

Blindness condemned to DARKNESS, POVERTY, and INDIGNITY of Begging

FAITH > KNEW Truths of Scripture – HELD Word in HOPE against HOPE

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed... Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old - and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Romans 4.18-21

Bartimaeus Could NOT SEE – but HEARD Jesus was PASSING BY Jericho

b. Discouragement: Can't Come!

ONE Chance to be HEARD by ONE who Could Change EVERYTHING

Millions of Americans – People around WORLD – Stopped on January 20

WATCHED events in Washington DC in HOPES for CHANGE

v. 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet

Unfortunate PATTERN > Disciples BLOCKING way to Jesus

"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name *and we told him to stop*, because he was not one of us."

Mark 9:38

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, *but the disciples rebuked them.*

Mark 10:13

We're BOTHERED by Beggars on Road > A NUISANCE > Get in WAY  
 In SPITE of much DISCOURAGEMENT > He PRESSED on in FAITH in Jesus

c. Declaration: Come! See!

Bartimaeus > FINDS way thru OPPOSITION to get to JESUS  
 v. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

HOW Did he KNOW about Jesus? > FAME spread throughout REGION

Many TESTIMONIES of His TEACHING and HEALING

LOUD CRY > STRONG CONVICTION formed from what he HEARD

When Jesus DEFINED Himself from Isaiah 61 he said in Synagogue in Nazareth:  
 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and *recovery of sight for the blind...*"

Luke 4.18

...say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come...  
*Then will the eyes of the blind be opened...*

Isaiah 35:4-5

v. 49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

Cheer Up > Did they CARE or just SARCASM? No Matter, Jesus CARED  
**What DISCIPLES SHOULD have said from Beginning**

Jesus the SERVANT Stops to Heal BLIND BEGGARS on His way to CROSS

Jesus takes INITIATIVE > HE CALLS the Blind Beggar to HIMSELF

Jesus did NOT SILENCE the CONFESSION / CRIES of BLIND Beggar

v. 51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

**KNOWS** What he **WANTS** > **NO WAVERING** > **RABBONI** > **Beloved Master**

Bartimaeus encountered Jesus' power, not on the basis of strength, but in the context of his weakness...this was not a disqualification from calling on the Lord's name...there is no other way to come to Jesus but on the basis of our need and his adequacy to meet it fully. Sinclair Ferguson

**WAY** to **FIND** Jesus is to **BE INVITED** by Jesus to **COME** and **SEE**

## 2. Following Jesus

a. Truth v. 47 "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Son of David > **MESSIANIC** Title > **BLIND** Man **SAW** Something Precious  
**ONLY** Person in **ENTIRE GOSPEL** of Mark to call Jesus **SON OF DAVID**

Few days Crowds in City of David will Shout > Bartimaeus among **THEM**?  
 "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is *the coming kingdom of our father David!*" Mark 11:9-10

As a **JEW** he had **RIGHT** to **APPEAL** to the **SON** of **DAVID**

Begs **MERCY** that comes in **MESSIANIC KINGDOM** of David's Kingly Line

Jesus the true Son of David is entering the city of David to fulfill all the promises given to David and to establish through the cross the everlasting kingdom of David.

Yours Truly

The healing of Bartimaeus displays, without any concealment, the messianic dignity of Jesus and his compassion on those who believe in him, and throws in bold relief the blindness of the leaders of Israel, whose eyes remained closed to his glory.

William Lane

Angel told Mother Mary: The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

Luke 1:32-33

b. Trust v. 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

NOT Going to BEG Anymore > CLOAK GARMENT for Collecting ALMS

JUMPS >> CONTRAST to SLOW, SAD Departure of Rich Young Ruler

And FEARFUL Following of Jesus from a DISTANCE

v. 52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you."

In Scripture FAITH is BOTH a NOUN 'THE Faith' / and VERB 'Believe'

1) Faith is Not being Gullible > NOT Uncritical, Unthinking, Unreasonable

American Agnostic Journalist: "Faith is an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable"

H.L. Mencken

BIBLE CONTRASTS - Faith and Sight / NO CONTRAST - Faith & Reason

Christian position - Very Reasonable - Belief in Solid Promises of True God

2) Faith is Not Optimism / Positive Confession // Name it / Claim it

"Believe it in your heart; say it with your mouth. That is the principle of faith. You can have what you say"

Kenneth Copeland

"You get what you say"

Kenneth Hagin

"Only by mouth confession can faith power be released, allowing tremendous things to happen"

David [Paul] Yonggi Cho

"Whatever comes out of your mouth shall be produced in your life" Robert Tilton

False Optimism - Visualizing or Imagining what we want and Believe It

PLACES US IN POSITION OF POWER AND SOVEREIGNTY

THIS FALSE OPTIMISM IS WALKING BY SIGHT NOT BY FAITH

### 3) Faith is Reasoning Trust

"Faith is reasoning trust; a trust which reckons thoughtfully and confidently upon the trustworthiness of God"

John Stott

HEALING Not ARBITRARY / FAITH – IN Jesus > Well Placed FAITH

MEETS the Man – HEARS the Man – TEACHES the Man – RESTORES him

King David & Men away at WAR – Left ZIKLAG – their city – UNGUARDED

ENEMY Amalakites > SNEAK Attack > Burned City, Took Women & Kids

When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until *they had no strength left to weep...* David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. *But David found strength in the LORD his God.* 1 Samuel 30:3-6

DAVID'S CIRCUMSTANCES MISERABLE / BUT HIS GOD WAS MIGHTY

STRENGTH NOT IN WHAT HE SAW - IN WHO COULD NOT SEE

Faith in a God who is Faithful and whose Promises can Never Fail

**JESUS SAYS WE BUILD FAITH BY THINKING**

Matthew 6 - People are Worried about Food, Clothing, and Tomorrow

THINK ABOUT THE BIRDS, FLOWERS, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

5 X's in SAME CHAPTER Paul asks "Don't you know?"

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? 1 Corinthians 6:2

Do you not know that we will judge angels? 1 Corinthians 6.3

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? 1 Corinthians 6:15

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? 1 Corinthians 6:16

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? 1 Corinthians 6:19

NOT TO SCOLD US BUT TO REMIND US - Great Gospel Promises

Remember REALITY of what GOD has DONE for us in CHRIST

What the Holy Spirit does in the new birth is not to make a man a Christian regardless of the evidence, but on the contrary to clear away the mists from his eyes and enable him to attend to the evidence. J. Gresham Machen

4) Jesus is the Object of our Faith

OUR FAITH IS IN JESUS CHRIST as DECLARED in the BIBLE

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross Hebrews 12:2

**Know God? > MEET JESUS! > Meet Jesus? > READ BIBLE!**

Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Proverbs 30:5

Physical blindness is no obstacle to spiritual sight, conversely, physical sight is no guarantee of spiritual sight. Victor Babajide Cole

Jesus had TIME for this BLIND BEGGAR

TENDER Care when His own Heart was HEAVY with DREAD of the CROSS

### c. Today

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Mark > Gospel to Church in Rome > Church in all ages > Jesus has Not Changed  
 He still Stops for those who Call on his Name > He listens to our Prayers for Help  
 Jesus NEVER CHANGES but HOW we RELATE to Him DOES CHANGE

Jesus ANTICIPATED this NEW ERA of CHURCH HISTORY -

Jesus: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are *those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" John 20:29

Jesus: "My prayer is not for them alone. *I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*" John 17:20

We believe in one holy catholic and **apostolic** Church. Nicene Creed

APOSTOLIC – We Believe WORD of THOSE who SAW & SENT to Tell Us  
 We HOLD their WORD as the VERY WORDS of LIVING JESUS to His Church

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but *we were eyewitnesses of his majesty*. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." *We ourselves heard this voice* that came from heaven when *we were with him* on the sacred mountain. 2 Peter 1:16-18

Though *you have not seen him*, you love him; and even though *you do not see him now*, *you believe in him* and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy 1 Peter 1:8-9

We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Popularity of TV CRACK-POTS > Do NOT Understand this DISTINCTION

Jesus’ Method of Ministry is Not Always a Model for Us to Follow Today

In the following 11 examples, we see three common things:

1. A human need which existed then and now
2. Jesus solved the need with a miracle then
3. Scripture tells us to meet that need in a more ordinary method now

Need # 1 - Paying Taxes	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Coin in mouth of fish</p> <p>“Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 17.27</p>	<p>Work, payment, stewardship</p> <p>“Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 22.21</p> <p>If you owe taxes, pay taxes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rom 13.7</p>

Need # 2 - Catching Fish	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Huge number with little effort - in daylight</p> <p>"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch"...they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.</p> <p>Luke 5.4,6</p>	<p>If we want to eat, we have to work</p> <p>For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Thessalonians 3.10</p>

Need # 3 - Water Transportation	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Jesus (&amp; Peter) walked on it</p> <p>he went out to them, walking on the lake Mark 6:48</p>	<p>By faith we go "through deep water"</p> <p>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you Isaiah 43.2</p>

Need # 4 - Feeding the Hungry	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Small amount of food multiplied for many five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves... The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand Mark 6:41-44</p>	<p>Feed others through hard work</p> <p>...must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need Ephesians 4.28</p>

Need # 5 - Speak with God's Authority	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Jesus is New Moses "I say unto you"</p> <p>"You have heard that it was said... But I tell you" Matthew 5:21-22</p>	<p>We speak Scripture by the Spirit</p> <p>What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you 2 Timothy 1:13-14</p>

Need # 6 - Calling People to Ministry

Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Saul blinded &amp; broken to become Paul</p> <p>I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. Acts 26:16</p>	<p>Careful examination of life &amp; teaching</p> <p>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach... 1 Timothy 3:2</p>

Need # 7 – Forgiveness of Sins

Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Dies to Accomplish Forgiveness</p> <p>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16</p>	<p>Receive &amp; apply what He did</p> <p>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1 John 3:16</p>

Need # 8 - Confront and Curse Sin

Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Immediate, final judgment</p> <p>Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" Mark 11:21</p>	<p>We offer forgiveness &amp; grace</p> <p>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4.32</p>

Need # 9 - Raise the Dead	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Power to raise the dead</p> <p>Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out                      John 11:43-44</p>	<p>Preach Him who is Resurrection &amp; Life</p> <p>Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."                      John 11:25-26</p>

Need # 10 - Control the Weather	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>His Word quieted the storm</p> <p>He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.                      Mark 4:39</p>	<p>Prayer for protection &amp; provision</p> <p>Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.                      James 5:17-18</p>

Need # 11 - Heal the Sick	
Jesus / Then	Church / Now
<p>Immediate Word of healing and life</p> <p>Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight                      Mark 10.52</p>	<p>prayer, pastoral care, confession, medicine</p> <p>Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.                      James 5.14</p>

## Conclusions -

1. God's "ordinary" method of blessing today is a "miraculous" gift!
2. God sometimes immediately intervenes today in the way He did through Jesus. But this is very unusual. We are not to "seek the miracle," but to Pray, Believe, & Obey
3. Jesus is "the same today" (Heb 13.8). But in this era of salvation history He reigns in heaven, we have the Spirit and the Scriptures, and we anticipate His coming.

// OT Saints Collected Manna in Wilderness to Cultivating Crops in Promised Land

### d. Testimony v. 46 Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus)

ONLY Mark tells us NAME of Man > Only 1 Other Name of Person Healed  
 EYE-WITNESS Affirmation > Probably PRESENT in CHURCH Post-Pentecost  
 KNOWN ONLY by his FATHER'S Name – Son of Timaeus

v. 52 Immediately he received his sight and *followed Jesus along the road.*

Large Crowd > PASSOVER was APPROACHING > PILGRIMS to FEAST

Muslim > Visit MECCA Once in Lifetime

Jews > Visit JERUSALEM – THREE X's every YEAR

Psalms > SUNG along the Way

I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Psalm 42:4

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem. Psalm 122:1-2

### JESUS in MIDDLE of Crowd of PILGRIMS

Now SON of DAVID will enter CITY of DAVID with BLIND MAN who SEES

Jesus just TOLD disciples TRUE GREATNESS was in being SERVANT

Shows GREATNESS in SERVING > Helpless man Out of DARKNESS into a

### NEW and MORE GLORIOUS DAY

The crowd of pilgrims anticipated going to Jerusalem for their annual sacrifice of a lamb for the sins of their family. Jesus knew that in Jerusalem He would become the once-for-all Lamb of God for the sins of the whole world. Yours Truly

\*\*\*\*\*

Mark 10:46-52

46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. 51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." 52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.