

Sermon Notes Mark 10:46-52

24/10/2021

Jesus said, 'Your faith has healed you'

Background. Jesus has just been teaching his disciples about serving others as the way to real divine greatness. Jesus uses himself as an example, 'the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve' (45). He then adds the ultimate example of the giving up of his life for others. But his giving up of his life is unique because it is the means of achieving 'ransom for many' (45). This is not spelt out here, but it involves rescue from the destruction and bondage of sin. The healing of 'Blind Bartimaeus' and his following of Jesus illustrates and anticipates the effect of Christ's 'ransom for many'.

- 1. V. 46.** Jesus, his disciples and a large crowd have just arrived in Jericho.
- 2. Vv. 47-48.** Blind Bartimaeus, on hearing Jesus of Nazareth is passing, cries out, 'Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!' People rebuke him and try to silence him, but Bartimaeus continues to shout out, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'
- 3. Vv. 49-50.** Jesus stops and calls Bartimaeus over. Suddenly Bartimaeus is the centre of Jesus' attention. A blind beggar is as important to Jesus as his disciples and the large crowd. They call Bartimaeus and he jumps up with excitement and comes to Jesus.
- 4. V. 51.** Jesus asks what might seem a strange question, 'What do you want me to do?' Perhaps he was testing Bartimaeus. Is he looking for money or will he take a big public risk and put his entire trust in Jesus? Because of our familiarity with Bartimaeus' answer and the outcome we can easily miss the depth of hope and trust he puts in Jesus.
- 5. V. 52.** Jesus responds by affirming Bartimaeus' 'faith' (trust) in him. There is no record of Jesus touching him, rather Mark says, 'immediately he received his sight' and then adds 'and followed Jesus'.

Reflection/Response.

Bartimaeus is an amazing example of someone who put enormous trust in Jesus.

It's important not to misunderstand the summary statement, 'your faith has healed you'. Faith is one of the **main means Jesus uses to bring healing** (sometimes weak faith Lk. 17:10-17, or no sign of faith Lk. 22:50-51, see also Jn. 5:1-15). Faith (trust) in Jesus opens us to receive his healing, empowering and call to serve him and others in his name.

How will people see our trust in Jesus?

How can we encourage people to trust in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord?

Note the goal of Jesus' miraculous healings, is that people would be rescued to respond to his call to follow him (see Eph. 2:1-10)

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