

Mrk39 – Pure Desperate Faith – Mark 10:46-52

I think this is our FIFTH Message - in Mark Ch 10
Because This - is a power-packed chapter

But listen - I want us to HEAR this again

In this Gospel – Mark (by the Holy Spirit)
puts Events together (he orders them together)

in order to tell a story – or get a critical truth across

It's been true already once – In This Ch

In the contrast between
how a CHILD approaches Jesus
vs how a RICH PERSON approaches Jesus

& Mark started another “Contrast Teaching” last week
In our msg titled “Selfish Ambition”

today – we see the 2nd half –
the “other shoe drops” half

of the Life-Changing Truth
that Mark set us up for - last message

These 2 Msgs together - Provide a Stark Contrast between
Selfish Ambition – & – Pure Desperate Faith ?

Let's Pray

One Scholar (James Edwards) – **who** has **focused on**
teaching **Mark** in **Seminary** for **many years** – says:

James Edwards

The healing of Bartimaeus is surely the sum and center of all that Mark desires to convey about faith and discipleship.

So – **this** is **NOT** just another **healing**
“because Jesus is compassionate” **Story**

& we will **REALLY see that** – as we **contrast Today’s text**
With the **msg** from **last week**

Last week – **Jesus** was on **the Road**
Headed toward **Jerusalem** – **AND the Cross**

Today – **Jesus** (& the crowd with him)
REACH Jericho - & **LEAVE Jericho**

The **LAST CITY**
Between Jesus - & the **Triumphal Entry**

Mark 10:46 (NLT)

46 Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him . . .

Jericho is **20 miles**
and **3,500 feet** in elevation **BELOW Jerusalem**

& **it is** the **LAST City** – **Before** you go – **UP to Jerusalem**

& this is the LAST Miracle
That Mark records in his Gospel

So - This is IT – in the Traveling Ministry of Jesus

Next Week – is the Triumphal Entry
& the Beginning of Passion Week

& a LARGE Crowd is now following Jesus

Because the FAME of Jesus - is at its peak

In the NEXT Section – This Crowd will be Shouting Hosanna
& Spreading Palm Fronds out for him

So Jesus – AND the Large Crowd Following Him
Are Leaving Jericho – Heading Up to Jerusalem

& then - Mark 10:46(b) says (NLT)
46 . . . A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (which means) (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road.

Bartimaeus is the ONLY person Healed – in Mat, Mark, Luke
who's name is recorded in the Word of God

Which would typically mean
something memorable is about to happen

So "**Blind Bartimaeus**" was **sitting BESIDE** the road
Probably with his **cloak spread out**

& **people** would **throw** a **small coin**
or **piece of bread** to them - as they **walked** by

So Bartimaeus is Sitting **BESIDE** the Road

He's on **the OUTSIDE**

He's on **the FRINGE** of what's happening

He's **SIDE-LINED** from society

But - **one thing** we **Quickly Learn** about **Blind Bartimaeus**

ALTHO he had **0/0 Physical Sight**

He had **20/20 Spiritual Sight**

We **see** it **first** - in his **EXCITEMENT**

when he **hears** that **Jesus** is **Passing By**

Mark 10:47 (NLT)

47 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

In **2 Sam 7** – **God** promised **King David**

that the **Savior of Israel** – The **Messiah**
would come from the **Linage of King David**

& **so** – "**Son of David**" became a **term** for **The Messiah**

& certainly, Bartimaeus had heard
of the FAME of Jesus of Nazareth

of the Miraculous Healings wherever he went –
& His Teachings like One sent Directly from God

& - somewhere in those testimonies
Blind Bartimaeus had CHOSEN to Believe

He had chosen to SEE Jesus - as The Messiah
Tho he could NOT SEE him - Physically

Is it that any different for US?

Thru his Miracles
& thru his Miraculous Word

You & I must Also CHOOSE to SEE Jesus as Messiah
Tho we CANNOT See him Physically

& that's not all we must do
That's the same as Blind Bartimaeus

Because Bartimaeus – Also Begins CRYING OUT to Jesus

Knowing the Savior – Would NOT pass that way again

Bartimaeus was Desperate
To have Jesus HEAR his Cries for MERCY

& so the people Started DOING –
what people – Start DOING

Mark 10:48 (NLT)

48 “Be quiet!” many of the people yelled at him . . .

What is WRONG with you Bartimaeus?

**Can’t you just quietly SPECTATE here
like the rest of us?**

Why do you have to be all - “Crying Out to Jesus”?

But when a person Knows –
that they’ve GOT to REACH the Savior

**Because they SO BADLY NEED
the Mercy of God in their lives**

**They are no longer Spectating –
They are no longer Watching**

& they are going to Continue to Cry Out to Jesus
Until they RECEIVE the Mercy of God – they NEED

& so we read in - Mark 10:48(b) (NLT)

48 . . . But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

& The more the people tried to Silence Him
That louder he shouted, “*Jesus, have mercy on me!*”

This is a man who KNOWS his current condition

**& he knows the only one who can SAVE HIM
IS PASSING BY – right now**

**This is HIS CHANCE
maybe his One & Only Chance**

& he is determined to REACH the Savior

**& God will ALWAYS hear
That Cry for Mercy – ALWAYS**

**AND - a Genuine CRY for God's Mercy
will always STOP the Lord in His Tracks**

Mark 10:49 (NLT)

49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." . . .

**The SON Stood Still
for this Blind Beggars Cry for Mercy**

**& if YOU will put YOURSELF
in this Blind Beggars PLACE**

The SON will Stand Still for YOU too

**Jesus Stopped – He Stood Still –
& He CALLED this Blind Beggar to himself**

- > Bartimaeus chose to **BELIEVE**
what he had heard about Jesus
- > Then, when Jesus was **NEAR**, Bartimaeus
began **Crying Out** to him & he would **NOT Stop**
- > Then, Jesus **CALLED Bartimaeus** to himself
- > & Then – Bartimaeus **HEARD the Call**

Mark 10:49(b) (NLT)

49 . . . So they called the blind man. “Cheer up,” they said. “Come on, he’s calling you!”

“Come on Bartimaeus, the LORD is calling you!”

& When you Cry Out to Jesus
With Unrelenting Determination

& then you hear the Lord Calling You

You do just what **Bartimaeus did**

Mark 10:50 (NLT)

50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

To a Beggar – His coat (cloak) was (for sure)
his most valued possession

& he willingly threw it aside
in order to RUN to Jesus

He jumped up – Stumbling around -
Led by those who had come to him – heart pounding

Until Finally – he was Face-to-Face
with God in the Flesh

& I'm sure Bartimaeus
could SENSE Jesus in front of him

But Jesus - was looking right past those sightless eyes
right into Bartimaeus' SOUL

& then - Mark 10:51 (NLT)

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked . . .

Mark that – because it is the exact same question
Jesus asked 2 of his Disciples - Last Week

Again - Mark 10:51 (NLT)

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

The word translated "My Rabbi" - is Rabboni

It's the same term Mary used at the tomb
when she Recognized Jesus

It's unique because

it expresses a "Personal Relationship"
with The Teacher (which is why NLT = "My Rabbi")

& so – Blind Bartimaeus says

“My Savior – My Teacher, I Want To See”

Have WE done that?

Have we Cried Out (relentlessly) to the Lord for His Mercy?

Have we Heard His CALL - & have we COME to Him?

& Have we said to Him –

“My Savior & My Lord – I want to SEE”

I want to see YOU more Clearly, Lord

I want to see YOUR Ways (& your Kingdom), more clearly

I want to see YOU, I want to KNOW you

Blind Bartimaeus KNEW Exactly

what he needed from the Lord

He KNEW his Own True Condition

& he KNEW he needed

to be HEALED & SAVED – BY the Lord

& the Lord - RESPONDED

Mark 10:52 (NLT)

52 And Jesus said to him, “Go, for your faith has healed you.” Instantly the man could see . . .

Bartimaeus, your faith has healed you . . .

the word Translated *Healed* is SOZO

It means to HEAL - or to SAVE

Your Faith has HEALED you

Your Faith has SAVED you

& Instantly the man could see . . .

& the Very FIRST THING he saw

was the FACE of JESUS

So - Bartimaeus was HEALED, & He was SAVED

& then v.52 says

Mark 10:52(b) (NLT)

52 . . . and he followed Jesus down the road.

He left his life as a Blind Beggar

and he Followed Jesus Down the Road

& Bartimaeus SAW - the Triumphal Entry

& he SAW - the Horror of The Cross

& he SAW - the Triumph of The Resurrection

& Some Scholars believe

Instead of "Blind Bartimaeus" – "Seeing Bartimaeus"

became a Vital Part of the Jerusalem Church

Blind Bartimaeus did Everything RIGHT

- > He **Recognized** his **Own Need**
- > He **Recognized *Jesus as the Savior*** from God
- > He **Cried Out** to Jesus with **Unrelenting Persistence**
- > He **Responded** when **Jesus called him**
- > & He **Left** his **Old Life Behind** to **Follow Jesus**

& **Blind Bartimaeus** is an **AWESOME Example**

of **Exactly** How **WE** should **COME to Jesus**
AND – How **WE** should **Follow Jesus**

BUT – There's MORE We Can We Learn From This Text

There's a a **Critical Comparison** Here

That it seems **MARK** is trying to **Get Across** to us

Look again at **Vs 51**

Where **Jesus** says to **Bartimaeus**

Mark 10:51 (NLT)

51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. “My Rabbi,” the blind man said, “I want to see!”

Bartimaeus says

I'm **BLIND** - and I want to **SEE**

I'm **LOST** - and I want to **Be FOUND**

I'm **SIDELINED** in life - & I want to **FOLLOW Jesus**

**The SIMPLICITY of His Desire
& the PERSISTENCE of his Faith**

are **Absolutely MOVING**

But Now – Look back up at Mark 10:36

**Where Jesus asks James & John –
Two of his top leading disciples – the same question**

Mark 10:36 (NLT)

36 “*What is your request?*” he asked.

**The Key Words in these Two Vs’s
are exactly the SAME**

So they COULD Be Translated - Exactly the Same

& So - As Mark often does

**He’s stringing Two Events together
In order to show us an incredible CONTRAST**

When Jesus asked Blind Bartimaeus this Question

It’s clear, that Bartimaeus wanted desperately

To be Healed,

To be Saved,

& to Follow Jesus

**When Jesus asked Two of his Leading Disciples
the Exact same question**

It's **clear** – the **Disciples** wanted
Power, Prestige, & Glory

**Who do you think was REALLY BLIND
in these two situations?**

**WAS IT Was it the Blind Man Crying Out
in his Brokenness & his Lostness**

To be **Saved**, & **Healed**, & to be able to **Follow Jesus?**

OR WAS IT the Arrogant Leaders of the Disciples

Who wanted **Power, Prestige, & Glory?**

Often, when we get 'too comfortable' in Ministry

**We begin to lose the understanding
of our intense need for Salvation & God's Grace**

We forget - that when Jesus called us

We were **spiritually Blind Beggars**
sitting on the Side of the Road

& **when we Forget – WHO we ARE
& WHERE We've Come from**

Our requests to the Lord
can easily become requests of Selfish Ambition

which is exactly what we saw
from James & John last week

Don't DO that – Don't Do That

Never Forget

You were BLIND to Spiritual Life
& Jesus Made you SEE

You were LOST & Jesus FOUND you

You were SIDELINED - & Jesus called you to FOLLOW Him

& when Jesus asks you

“What do you Want me to do for you?”

Tell Him – Nothing More Jesus

Than for you to SAVE Me - & HEAL Me
& allow me to FOLLOW you every day of my life

Mark has given us an incredible CONTRAST of

HOW NOT to Come to Jesus
& HOW TO Come to Jesus

Please hear me when I say

Blind Bartimaeus - Got it RIGHT

Let's Pray - that WE will too