

We are finishing a series in Mark 10 – The Truth is... (How do we choose a series...narratives move)

- This...teachings, disciples journey Capernaum – south around Samaria to Jericho...Jerusalem 10:1 - 'And he left there (Capernaum), and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan...' 40 miles...40 miles | 10:46 – 'And they came to Jericho'

Through this section: Marriage – Divorce – Children – Wealth – Fear – Promise – Eternity – Ambition

- Today closes our series...a man named Bartimaeus **who needs mercy*** Mercy Matters**

The idea we are going to flesh out today = **The Care Those in Need...Need**

(Intro) People hate to ask for help...Pride – Insecurity – Shame | On Fire...holding a bucket of water

- Bartimaeus has hit the end of his rope...feel his desperation in our text...**feel his need for mercy**

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Fifteen mountainous miles downhill from Jerusalem – One of the oldest continuously occupied cities The streets would have been filled with pilgrims flooded to the Holy City...Passover - **TO WITNESS...**

- Miracle—blessing—wisdom—sparks fly between Jesus & his enemies...Grand parade | **READ Let's get to know a man who needs mercy | 'Before you judge man, walk a mile in his shoes'** Get to know Bartimaeus...What was Bartimaeus like?

1. **Bartimaeus was: Blind, Broke and Busted (46)**

Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

Today we have a social services overload: Eviction Prevention | Emergency Food | Diapers...Disability

- Bartimaeus would have had none of that...**he wasn't socially served but socially scorned**
- Double curse on him...Born handicapped and in destitution and poverty | **Blind & Broke** **He is busted**...sitting on the roadside - The roadside is a place for marginal people.

- Jericho most trafficked intersections world: Commerce – Travel – Troops moving Africa & Europe

Imagine the amount of need Bartimaeus is in...Castoff of society | No skills | Noisy...blind...begging

- Streets are busier than normal as religious people tread towards the Holy City...Right past you **Bartimaeus represents the most miserable and contemptible of all society...lost without hope**

See in need...Bartimaeus portrays it to a tee | **He was in need and need mercy** | Would you see?

2. **Bartimaeus was: Determined to Get to Jesus (47-48)**

⁴⁷ When he heard it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

He obviously didn't see Jesus...he heard it in the scuttlebutt – and he responded urgently! **PICTURE**

- **Man on the side of road...blind...crying out! Jesus! Cannot go wading into the crowd...cant see!**
- **People start to rebuke him...Knock it off! Be quiet! Cursed feeble man...go on!** | **ROCKY**

SEE THIS INCREDIBLE CONTRAST...Story Just Before

^{10:35-37} 'And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

Two of the greatest men who ever lived were asking Jesus for position, power, prestige

What is Bartimaeus screaming for? Mercy! | Mercy = Underserved Compassion

Bartimaeus knew he was unworthy of Jesus compassion...so he cried for mercy!

How do we know this wasn't just typical begging? Jesus was a man of influence...give him some stuff?

- Look at how he addresses Jesus, 'Son of David' – Messianic title | Posture he took was humility
- Small peasant girl...took some flowers...guards grabbed her and were about to lay a beating.
- **King was happening by...stopped and asked what was going on...guards reported**
- **King knelt and asked the girl what happened, 'I wanted to take some of the king's flowers'**
- **King said, 'Little girl you cannot take from the king, but you may receive what he freely gives...'**

Determined...nothing stop him...beg mercy | He was in need and needed mercy! Would You hear?

3. **Bartimaeus was: Convinced Jesus was His Only Hope (49-51)**

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight."

The story shifts to Jesus – From a desperate beggar to the Creator of the universe – Stops and Calls!

Amidst the noise of the crowd, Jesus hears the cry of this beggar, and stops in his tracks.

- **Jesus' ears are attuned to hear the marginal person:**

- Woman hemorrhage (5:25-34)—Domonic Possessed (5:1-20)—Sick (6:53-56)
- Syrophenician woman (7:24-30)—Blind man Bethsaida (8:22-25)—Boy with spirit (9:14-29)
- Little children (10:13-16)—**and now this blind man who sits beside the road...CALLED HIM!**

SEE ANOTHER INCREDIBLE COMPARRISON

RYR = 10:17 - 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' | COMMANDMENTS...Done that! 10:21 - 'You lack one thing: go sell all that you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.' Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions'

Look at the difference of Bartimaeus in **v.50 'Throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus'**

- **Beggars would sit with cloak spread on the ground to catch coins tossed by passersby.**
 - Cloak and the few coins on it are his only possessions and he throws them away | **WHY?** Bartimaeus wanted to get rid of anything that impeded him from getting to Jesus...Close & Fast
- He's brought to Jesus...and Jesus asks, **'What do you want me to do for you?'**

Bartimaeus was a simple man - He had one driving passion

- Get out of the impenetrable darkness that defined his life
- Always dependent on someone else to take him by the hand and to lead him.

Cry **"All I want, Lord, is to receive my sight."** | **He was in need and needed mercy** | Would you bring?

Again...how he addresses Jesus matters, **'Rabboni'** original language... Lord and Master

- **Anticipation of Transformation – Bartimaeus made confession faith** Recognized Jesus only hope

4. **Bartimaeus was: Willing to Go Where Jesus Led (52)**

⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way. – Jesus commends and makes him 'well'

- 'well' is used over 20 times in the New Testament to refer to one thing...Salvation
 - Man was given sight and new birth...saved and restored...**and he now only had one priority... I got glasses in the 4th Grade – I remember putting them on...looking at EVERYTHING...NEW!**
- New Eyes...one-track mind...PATH...**FOLLOW JESUS | He was in need and needed mercy**

The care those in need...need | Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes

- Story of Bartimaeus should drive us to see what people really need
 - **To see how the real need of the needy is Jesus**
 - May propel merciful on those in: poverty, disabled, outcast, or downtrodden | **Peripheral So many preach this text as a way to be like Jesus...show mercy to the least fortunate Keep asking...would you? Great if you're Jesus in this story... We are not Jesus in this story!**

The point of the text is not: To teach us to have mercy on those like Bartimaeus

Teach us: YOU MUST BE BARTIMAEUS

The Point of the text is: Be like Bartimaeus and the Lord will be merciful to you!

You and I are in need...and need mercy! | To be saved you have to walk the same shoes

You and I are the ones in need...and the care that those in need...need is to:

- **Realize you're like Bartimaeus: Blind, Broke, and Busted** | Spiritually: Blind – Broke – Busted **You and I are the most miserable and contemptible of all society...lost without hope...UNLESS**
 - **Be like Bartimaeus:**
 - **Determined Get to Jesus**
 - Refused to be intimidated by the crowd | Now or never | Sprang up
 - **Convinced Jesus is Your Only Hope**
 - How blind we really are – **'Son of David, have mercy on me!'**
 - The cry for mercy...beggar...cheered the heart of the Savior and He stopped and called
 - **Willing to Go Where Jesus Leads**
 - With your newly formed eyes...see the path Jesus lays out | **BLB AND BE SAVED!**

Rich Young Rule – Give up everything and follow me – 'no'

Disciples – Pride for position, power, prestige - 'no'

Bartimaeus – Humility cried out, 'Have mercy on me!'- Left all he had – Jesus stopped – 'Yes' (YOU) **It's difficult to ask for help...it's the core of the gospel...Be Like Bartimaeus - Mercy Matters!**