11/8/26

Title: **The Desires of My Heart**

Main Scripture: Mark 10:46–52 (ESV) — Blind Bartimaeus

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 38:9, 1 Samuel 1:9–20, Jeremiah 17:10, 1 Samuel 16: 7

Mark introduces this man.

He gives us **his name**, Bartimaeus. He tells us **his condition**: he's blind. He tells us **his circumstances**: he's a beggar. And he tells us **his location**: he's sitting by the roadside.

Bartimaeus was a man living with a physical condition that limited his ability to see, and his circumstances **had** placed him in a position where **he depended** on the generosity of others.

Just because someone knows about your condition, or can see what you're going through, doesn't mean they understand what's in your heart.

But here's something else we ought to consider.

What people know about your present condition doesn't necessarily reveal what God is doing in your life or what He may accomplish through you.

Because… **Where you are right now may be part of the very process God is using to fulfill His purpose in your life, and what you're experiencing today does not define the fullness of what He can accomplish in you and through you.**

Being blind was part of Bartimaeus's present circumstances and the journey he was navigating, but his condition never diminished his value, defined his identity, or changed who he was in the eyes of God.

And the same is **true for you**—**whatever** you're facing in life, and **wherever** you may be in **your process, your circumstances** do not determine **your worth**, diminish **your value**, or change who you are in the **eyes of God**.

So when Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, he did not remain silent…. he cried out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'

Notice the distinction: Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was near, but he called upon Him as the Son of David.

That expression, *Son of David*, was more than an ordinary title. It carried the expectation of the **promised Messiah**, the King who would come from David's lineage.

Bartimaeus was calling upon Jesus with a title that acknowledged His messianic identity.

His physical inability to see did not prevent him from calling upon the One who had the power to change his condition.

Our inability to see what God is doing should never cause us to forget who Jesus is.

Because faith doesn't always express itself through eloquent words or carefully prepared prayers. Sometimes, faith is simply a heartfelt cry: "Jesus, have mercy on me!"

And that's what we must recognize in this first part of the passage.

Bartimaeus had a need that was evident to those around him, but the depth of his desire would become clear when he encountered Jesus….

Just because someone hears your cry doesn't mean they understand the depth of what you're carrying, the desperation behind your pursuit, or the desires of your heart that are driving you to call on Jesus.

His persistence demonstrated that his desire to reach Jesus was greater than his willingness to be silenced.

And this is important because our relationship with Jesus cannot be based solely on whether other people understand our pursuit of Him.

- There will be times when people may not understand why you're praying about a particular situation,
- why you're seeking God for direction,
- or why you're continuing to trust Him when your circumstances haven't changed.

He already knows what we're carrying.

He was calling on Jesus, the Son of David, the One he believed was able to show him mercy.

And his response reminds us that **When our Faith is anchored in Jesus, we don't have to allow the Limitations of human Understanding to Determine the Depth of our Pursuit of Him.**

In **1 Samuel 1:9–20**, we find Hannah, a woman who was deeply distressed because she had no children. She went before the Lord and began praying out of the anguish of her heart. And in verses 12 through 14, Scripture tells us that as Hannah continued praying, Eli the priest observed her mouth moving, but he could not hear her words.

And because of what he observed, Eli mistakenly assumed that Hannah was drunk.

But Hannah explained that she was a woman troubled in spirit, pouring out her soul before the Lord.

And even though Hannah's circumstances were different from those of Bartimaeus, both accounts remind us of something significant.

What people observe on the outside does not always reveal the depth of what someone is bringing before God.

Hannah poured out her soul before the Lord.

Bartimaeus cried out for the mercy of Jesus.

And although their circumstances were different, both brought their deeply personal needs before the One who was able to respond.

The significance is not in how loud Bartimaeus cried, but in **the faith he demonstrated by continuing to call upon Jesus for mercy.**

And notice something else….

Jesus didn't simply acknowledge that someone was calling His name.

He stopped and instructed that Bartimaeus be brought to Him. Jesus knows the condition, He knows the heart, and He knows the person who is calling upon Him.

And there's an important lesson for us as believers.

Faith in Jesus is not simply about what we say we Believe; Genuine Faith is demonstrated by how we Respond to His Word, how we Obey His Instructions, and whether we're Willing to Move when He calls us to move!

We can pray about our circumstances, seek God concerning the desires of our hearts, and ask Him for direction.

But when the Lord calls us to respond in faith, in obedience, or surrender, we must be willing to move beyond simply expressing our desires and begin responding to His Word.

Because sometimes, **we become so focused on what we want Jesus to do for us… that we overlook what Jesus is calling us to do in response to Him.**

Because the same Jesus who knows everything about us still invites us into a personal relationship where we can open our hearts to Him, bring our desires before Him, and trust Him with the outcome.

Now, there's something significant about the question Jesus asked.

In the original Greek, the word translated *"want"* comes from the word *thelō*, which means **to want, to wish, or to desire.**

So Jesus is essentially asking Bartimaeus, **"What do you want, wish, desire Me to do for you?"**

Just because we desire something doesn't automatically mean that desire is wrong. But it doesn't automatically mean that desire is aligned with God's will either!

Sometimes we can desire the right things for the wrong reasons.

- We can desire leadership without fully understanding the **responsibility** of serving.
- We can desire greater influence without considering the **accountability** that comes with it.
- We can desire success without considering whether we're **willing to honor** God in the process of achieving it.
- And we can even **desire God's blessings…** while overlooking the responsibility of **faithfully managing** what He's already entrusted to us.

And that's why the condition of our hearts matters.

Because **what we desire is important, but the motives behind those desires matter just as much.**

God examines the heart

The Lord declares **in Jeremiah 17:10 (ESV)**.: **"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind,"**

The question is not simply, "What do you want from God?" But, "What do the things you desire reveal about the condition of your heart?"

- Are those desires drawing you closer to Christ?
- Are they consistent with His Word?
- Are they rooted in faith, humility, and a willingness to serve?
- **Or are there** desires that need to be brought into submission to His will?

Because spiritual maturity involves more than knowing how to ask God for something.

It involves allowing the Word of God to Examine what we're asking for, why we're asking for it, and whether we're Willing to Submit our Desires to His Purpose.

What happens to our relationship with Jesus after we've received what we've been praying for?

When the door finally opens, when the opportunity comes, when the difficult season passes, or when the circumstances we've

been asking God to change begin to improve—does our commitment to following Jesus remain?

Because it's one thing to pursue Jesus when **we desperately** need something from Him…

But Genuine Discipleship is revealed in our continued willingness to Follow Him, even beyond the Fulfillment of a particular Request.

And perhaps that's one of the most important lessons we can take from this passage.

The greatest Blessing isn't simply receiving something from the hands of Jesus; it's having a Relationship with Jesus that continues to Shape the Desires of our Hearts and the Direction of our Lives.

Because at the end of the day, it's not simply about what we want Jesus to do.

It's about whether the desires of our hearts are leading us to Jesus—and whether we're willing to keep following Him once we get there.