

# MARK — Shouting to Jesus

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## Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 10:46–52.



What are you longing for? What have you been waiting for? Are you in touch with what you deeply want? Or have you lost sight of what you want in the treadmill of life? This question is what we have been asking this advent season, and this question is not foreign to the gospels.

Jesus asks this question, no matter who he is interacting with: “What do you want me to do for you?” He’s asking what you really need.

## Only Heard of Jesus

Bartimaeus had never seen Jesus, but only heard Jesus. And this he sensed was his opportunity to be heard by Jesus.

Sometimes we may be too casual with our longings with Jesus. In the Psalms, we see that there is a time to shout and cry out to Jesus. And Bartimaeus, out of necessity and desperation cried to this Jesus of Nazareth figure.

There is something about persistence that Jesus is after that fights against passivity. Jesus teaches us to ask and keep on asking, persistently seek, and continuously knock when it comes to praying with him. He desires for us to be in touch with our longings and wants us to bring our longings to him.

We see a precedent for this in the story of Hannah:

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk

and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”

“Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”

Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Sa 1:12–18.

And so when we draw back to this portrait of Jesus’ interaction with Bartimaeus, we see this persistence shining forth.

## Faith in What?

In Jesus’ response to Bartimaeus, he affirms that it was Bartimaeus’ faith that made him well. And a good tactic in Bible study to ask a lot of questions.

One question that stands out here is, “what is Bartimaeus’ faith in?”

His faith was clearly not in his shouting, but in someone.

We get a hint of that when we look at how Bartimaeus addressed Jesus: “Son of David.”

This is significant because this blind man is the first person in Mark's Gospel to address Jesus according to a title that signified Royalty, anointing, and the promised Messiah.

A blind man is the first to see who Jesus is, and yet those who can see still don't get it. (Though yes, Peter, who to his credit figured out that Jesus is the Messiah, but still was led by his expectations of a militaristic Messiah rather than the Son of David).

It's like the words of Isaiah the prophet:

Hear, you deaf;  
look, you blind, and see!  
Who is blind but my servant,  
and deaf like the messenger I send?

Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,  
blind like the servant of the Lord?

You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;  
your ears are open, but you do not listen.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Is 42:18–20.

## Have Mercy on Me!

Take pity on me! Please show me compassion! Be slow to anger to me! And the only way for our creator to really show compassion and understanding toward us, he would have to fulfill Isaiah's Messianic expectations:

He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Is 53:3.

And to prove that he is the Messiah and can fulfill those expectations, he heals the blind with just a word: “Go.”

I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.  
I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,  
to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Is 42:6–7.



In one word, Jesus brought the future into the present.

## Now & Not Yet

In our present age, Jesus may bring the future into the present. But it doesn't always happen. This man was healed, but even Paul was told no when he asked for mercy and

relief.



Yet even still, Jesus teaches us to ask, seek, and knock, and never give up when we come to him in prayer.

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