



The Gospel of Mark Following Jesus

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“Have Mercy – I Want to See!” Jeshu bar-David Heals Bar-Timaeus

Mark 10:46-52

June 18, 2017

Dr. James D. Smith III

Theme: In Mark 8-10, Jesus three times prophesies His coming betrayal, death and resurrection. He asks His disciples, “Can you drink the cup?”, and summarizes the Son’s mission: “Not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”. Then chapter 11 sees a pendulum swing “Kingdom of *our* father David”, emotional high, with his Triumphal Entry into the Holy City, Jerusalem. *In between*, there is the miraculous at historic Jericho – the Gospel’s final healing, only declaration of Jesus as “Son of David,” and vision of discipleship as following Rabbi “on the road” both spiritual and physical.

Context:

Historic: OT Jericho (Joshua 5:13-6:5) 14 centuries prior: the ‘walls’ miracle!

Literary: NT Jericho becomes site of healing miracle (// Mt 20:29-34, Luke 18:35-43)

Father’s Day: Son of David (Hebrew) *Messiah* meets Son of Timaeus (Greek) *Beggar*

Outline:

1. **Jesus** and disciples, *traveling on the road* with a large crowd (v.46)

2. **Bartimaeus** I the blind beggar, is *sitting off the road* (v.46). Then...

a. He *hears* [how? sharpened senses?] Jesus of Nazareth is near (v.47)

b. He does a *shout out* for mercy (like Taxman in Luke 18:13 – *Kyrie eleison!*)

3. **The Many rebuke him**, telling him to *shut up* – but he *turns it up* (v.48)
 - a. And Jesus *stopped*, directing them to “Call him.” (v.49)
 - b. They *obey*: “Cheer up! Stand up!! He’s calling YOU!!!” (v.49)

4. **Bartimaeus II** through these witnesses, *responds/obeys* with zeal (v.50)
 - a. *Throwing off* his draped/spread cloak (recall Joshua removing shoes in 5:15)
 - b. *Jumping to his feet* (anticipate crippled beggar healed at Temple in Acts 3:8)
 - c. He “*came to Jesus*” - using whatever faculties/resources he had

5. **Healing Dialogue**: Greeks would recall Plato’s Timaeus on seen/unseen realities
 - a. Jesus: “What do you *want* me to do for you?” (v.51) What kind of mercy?
 - b. Bartimaeus: “Rabbi, I *want* to see...” More than money, new position, etc)
 - c. Jesus: “Go – your *faith has healed* you!” (v.52) Classic theology: *assensus + fiducia*.

6. **Healed Life vision** is instant/ongoing. In Bartimaeus’ “bar-mitzvah”(v.52) he...
 - a. *Received his “sight”* in an instant – through the word of Messiah – and...
 - b. *Followed Jesus on “the road”* – likely towards a spiritually blind Holy Week crowd.

Takeaway: Picture of our Lord’s *gracious healing* power: Bartimaeus blind, begging, and sitting by life’s road is transformed by new vision, gifted and finds the path of discipleship. As Jesus said to the man at Bethesda Pool (John 5:6), “Do you want to get well?” He is the Way (John 14:6), and Christians are called people of “The Way” in Acts 9:2 and 22:4. *There are still miracles of restoration* in our Jericho places – and on the road. Robert Cull wrote in prayer during America’s Bicentennial: “Open our eyes, Lord – we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him. Open our ears Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord – we want to see Jesus!”

Next Cove: June 25, 2017
The Triumphal Entry (Mark 11: 1-11)