

ALL !N WITH JORDAN EASLEY

From Blindness To Boldness

Encounters With Jesus | Part 7 | Mark 10:46-52

INTRODUCTION

Most people have heard of Colonel Sanders and his world-famous fried chicken, but few know his story of failure. After his restaurant business failed, he hit the road at age 65 with nothing but a social security check and his secret recipe. He was rejected 1,009 times before one person finally said "yes." That single encounter changed everything, turning a rejected recipe into the global empire of KFC. One moment can redefine a life.

In Mark 10, we meet a man named Bartimaeus who also had a life-changing encounter. He was a blind beggar, sitting by the road as he did every day. But on this day, Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. Bartimaeus had heard the stories of Jesus' power and compassion. That hope awakened his faith, leading to one desperate cry that would stop the Savior in His tracks and move Bartimaeus from a life of blindness to one of bold faith.

KEY POINTS

1. A Cry of Desperation

When Bartimaeus heard Jesus was near, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" He did not just call Him Jesus of Nazareth, the common title. He called Him "Son of David," a Messianic title that declared his belief that Jesus was the promised King. The crowd tried to silence him, but his desperation was greater than his fear of public opinion. He yelled all the more, refusing to let the culture or the crowd keep him from Jesus. Desperation is often the birthplace of transformation. When your heart truly longs for Jesus, you will not let anything stop your cry.

2. A Call of Compassion

Jesus, on His final journey to the cross in Jerusalem, stopped. Surrounded by a massive, noisy crowd, He stopped for the cry of one forgotten man. He did not just heal him from a distance; He called him personally. In response, Bartimaeus threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. That coat likely represented his entire identity as a beggar. It was his only possession, his shelter, and the symbol of his old life. By throwing it off, he was acting in faith, leaving his old life behind and trusting Jesus for a new one. You cannot run to Jesus while clinging to your past.

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3. A Question of Faith

When Bartimaeus came to Him, Jesus asked a seemingly obvious question: "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus was not asking for information; He was inviting Bartimaeus to articulate his faith. He wanted him to name his need and confess his belief. Bartimaeus's response was powerful: "Rabboni, I want to see." The term "Rabboni" is a deeply personal title of reverence, meaning "my great teacher" or "my Lord." He was not just requesting sight; he was surrendering to the Lordship of Christ. There is power in spoken faith. Jesus calls us to pray bold, specific prayers that declare our trust in Him.

4. A Miracle of Mercy

Jesus responded to his faith, saying, "Go, your faith has saved you." The Greek word for "saved" here means more than physical healing; it means to be delivered, healed, and made whole. Bartimaeus did not just regain his sight, he gained salvation and a new life. And what was the first thing he did with his new eyes? He followed Jesus on the road. A blind beggar became a disciple. His encounter did not just give him a blessing to walk away with; it gave him a Savior to follow.

The call to follow Jesus is always a call to leave something behind. For the disciples, it was their nets. For Matthew, it was his tax collector's booth. For Bartimaeus, it was his cloak. What is the "cloak" in your life? What identity, past failure, security, or comfort are you clinging to? A true encounter with Jesus requires us to throw off the things that define us apart from Him. We must be willing to abandon the comfortable in our pursuit of the eternal, trusting that the new life He offers is far greater than the old life we leave behind.

A true encounter with Jesus always changes your life and redirects your steps. Once your eyes are opened to who He is, you cannot go back to your old way of life. Bartimaeus did not use his new sight to return to his old spot; he used it to follow the One who healed him. Has an encounter with Jesus changed your direction? He does not just give you a better day; He gives you a whole new destination. Do not settle for the blessing when you can have the One who blesses. When Jesus opens your eyes, He calls you to follow Him.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. The crowd tried to silence Bartimaeus, but his desperation made him cry out even louder. What fears, opinions, or distractions in your life try to keep you quiet when you need to cry out to Jesus?
2. Bartimaeus threw off his cloak, which represented his old identity, to run to Jesus. What "cloak" or part of your old life do you need to throw off today to follow Jesus more freely and completely?
3. Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" inviting a specific declaration of faith. If Jesus asked you that same question right now, what is the one bold, specific thing you would ask Him for in faith?
