

ALL !N WITH JORDAN EASLEY

What Do You Want Me to Do for You?

Questions Jesus Asked | Part 4 | Mark 10:46-52

INTRODUCTION

A while back, I was in line at Starbucks behind a man who clearly wasn't a coffee-shop guy — he stared at the menu like it was written in another language. The barista smiled and asked what she could get started for him, and he froze: "Uhhh... I'm not sure." She tried again, listing macchiatos, cappuccinos, lattes, frappes — "Which one do you want?" — and he just stood there while the line backed up behind him. Finally he said, "Ma'am, just give me what you think I need." I laughed when I heard it, but later it hit me: that's exactly how a lot of us approach God. We come to Him in prayer but don't really know what we want Him to do. We say, "Lord, bless me," but never define what that means. We say, "Lord, help me," but never explain what kind of help we're asking for — and then we wonder why our prayers feel powerless.

In Mark 10, Jesus looked at a blind man named Bartimaeus and asked a question I believe He's still asking today: "What do you want me to do for you?" (v. 51). People have wondered for centuries why Jesus — who is God and knows everything — would ask a question at all. Here's the answer worth writing down: Jesus doesn't ask questions for information; He asks them to invite transformation. He already knows what you need, but He wants you to name it — to step out in faith and speak it — because something happens when you articulate the hope you carry. To feel the weight of this question, you have to picture the scene. Jesus was leaving Jericho on His final stretch toward Jerusalem and the cross, the road crowded with Passover travelers. Bartimaeus — whose name means "son of honor," though nothing about his condition looked honorable — sat by the road, blind, poor, and forgotten, begging for coins and listening to other people's lives pass him by. Then he heard it: "It's Jesus of Nazareth." Something inside him came alive, and he began to shout.

KEY POINTS

1. Don't Let the Crowd Silence Your Cry

Almost every miracle begins with someone who refuses to stay silent. Bartimaeus could have believed his voice didn't matter and his situation was too small for Jesus' attention, but instead he raised his voice louder: "Many warned him to keep quiet, but he was crying out all the more, 'Have mercy on me, Son of David!'" (Mark 10:48). The word for "cry out," the Greek *krazo*, means to shout with intense emotion — a raw, unpolished, unrehearsed cry that comes from deep pain and desperate faith. And notice what he called Jesus: "Son of David," the Messianic title, a declaration that Jesus was the promised Savior. The crowd saw a teacher from Nazareth; Bartimaeus saw the Redeemer of Israel. That's the irony of the story — the blind man saw who Jesus really was before anyone else did.

When he cried out, the crowd tried to silence him. Mark says they "warned" him; the word is the same one used when Jesus rebuked demons — they weren't politely asking him to lower his voice, they were harshly telling him to stop. Why? Because desperate faith always makes comfortable people uncomfortable. The crowd wanted order and control; Bartimaeus wanted Jesus. That's what true faith does — it pushes past resistance and isn't intimidated by opposition. There will always be "crowds" that try to quiet your faith: voices that say, "Don't bother God with that," or "You've prayed long enough," or "You're making too much noise." Maybe your crowd today is fear, or shame, or people who don't understand your faith. When life gets loud, that's exactly when you cry out to God even louder — because "Jesus stopped" (v. 49). He didn't stop for the crowd; He stopped for the cry. That's the heart of the gospel: we serve a God who still stops when we call out to Him in faith.

2. Don't Let Your Past Define Your Future

Jesus told the disciples, "Call him," and they said to Bartimaeus, "Have courage! Get up; he's calling for you" (v. 49). Then comes a detail loaded with meaning: "He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus" (v. 50). In that day, a beggar's cloak wasn't just clothing — it was a symbol of his identity, his condition, and his place in society. It was his security blanket, his survival system, even his official permission to beg. So when Bartimaeus threw it off, it

was more than a physical act; it was a spiritual declaration: "I'm not going to need this anymore." The Greek word for "threw off," *apotithemi*, means to cast something far away — the same verb Paul uses in Ephesians 4:22 when he says to "put off your old self." That's what faith does: it releases the things that once defined you so you can step into who Jesus created you to be.

This is where many of us get stuck. We want the miracle, but we don't want to release the old mindset; we want to see differently, but we don't want to live differently. Bartimaeus teaches us that faith isn't only about receiving something new — it's about leaving some things that are old. So what coat do you need to throw off today? Maybe it isn't a piece of fabric but a label someone handed you: "Failure." "Divorced." "Addict." "Not enough." Or maybe it's a pattern — an old way of thinking, a familiar sin, a sense of shame you've carried far too long. When Jesus calls your name, you can't stay wrapped in what He came to remove. Throw it off, and step toward Him.

3. Don't Miss the Question That Could Change Your Life

Bartimaeus believed, he cried out, he found his courage, and he came running — and now Jesus looks at him and asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" (v. 51). It sounds simple, even obvious, but it's one of the most profound questions Jesus ever asked, because He already knew exactly what Bartimaeus needed. He wasn't asking for information; He was inviting Bartimaeus to say it out loud and declare specifically what he was believing God for. The Greek word for "want," *thelō*, means "to will, to choose, to determine" — Jesus wasn't just offering a favor, He was inviting Bartimaeus to align his will with God's power. It was like handing him a spiritual blank check and saying, "Fill in the line. Tell Me what you're asking for."

But that's where so many of us hesitate, afraid to ask boldly. I once had a well-known man in a previous church pull out his checkbook, lean in, and half-whisper, "Pastor, just tell me — how much do you need?" The project was millions of dollars, and I froze. Do I give a small, safe number, or the full amount and risk scaring him off? I played it safe and named a figure I knew he could easily handle. He didn't even blink — he wrote the check, shook my hand, and walked away — and to this day I wonder what he might have done if I'd only had the courage to ask. That moment changed how I think about prayer, because James 4:2 says, "You do not have because you do not ask." Sometimes we limit what God does because we limit what we're willing to ask

for; we give Him safe prayers because bold prayers make us nervous. But Jesus' question is an invitation to greater faith: "Don't shrink your request to fit your understanding. Trust My power more than your comfort." Bartimaeus modeled it perfectly — he didn't hesitate: "Rabboni, I want to see" (v. 51). That word "Rabboni," used only twice in Scripture, means "my Master" — it's personal and intimate. Bartimaeus wanted more than what Jesus could do; he wanted Jesus Himself. So ask boldly, ask specifically, ask expectantly.

4. Don't Stop at the Miracle — Follow the Master

"Jesus said to him, 'Go, your faith has saved you.' Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road" (v. 52). That last line is one of my favorite moments in the story, because Bartimaeus didn't just receive a miracle — he entered a relationship. He could have cashed the check and gone home to enjoy his healing in private, but instead he got up, opened his eyes, and started walking in the same direction as his Savior. There's a world of difference between being a consumer of miracles and a disciple of Jesus. A lot of people love the works of Jesus but resist the ways of Jesus — they want His power but not His presence, His blessings but not His Lordship. Bartimaeus shows us genuine faith: faith that doesn't just receive from Jesus but walks with Him afterward. And don't forget where that road was heading — toward Jerusalem, toward the cross. His very first steps as a new believer were steps toward Calvary, which is what discipleship really is: following Jesus doesn't always lead to comfort, but it often leads to the cross.

The ultimate goal of faith isn't to get something from Jesus — it's to become more like Him, and that only happens when you fully surrender and follow Him no matter what. Real faith moves before the miracle; it acts before the outcome and obeys before it understands. That's the difference between belief and faith: passive belief says, "I know Jesus can," while active faith says, "I'm stepping out because I know He will." The Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 doesn't list people who believed quietly but people who moved boldly — Noah built the ark before a drop of rain fell, Abraham left home not knowing where he was going, Moses stepped into the Red Sea. Every one of them acted before they saw. Maybe God is inviting you to move today — to forgive someone, surrender something, serve where He's nudging you, give in a way that costs you, or trust Him again where you'd stopped believing. Don't wait until it all makes sense. Bartimaeus came asking for sight, but Jesus gave him salvation; he

wanted his eyes opened, and Jesus opened his whole life. That's the Savior we serve — He always gives more than we ask. And He still asks the same question today: "What do you want Me to do for you?" Because faith that stands still misses the miracle, but faith that steps forward always finds Jesus.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Bartimaeus refused to let the crowd silence his cry. What "crowd" — fear, shame, other people's opinions, or your own doubt — has been quieting your faith, and what would it look like to cry out to God louder this week instead?
2. Bartimaeus "threw off his coat" — the identity that had defined and limited him. What label or pattern do you need to throw off to step toward Jesus, and what makes it hard to let go?
3. Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" If He asked you that today, how would you answer — and where have you been praying "safe" prayers instead of asking Him boldly, specifically, and expectantly?
