

Summary

This sermon, drawn from Mark 10:46-52, uses the story of blind Bartimaeus as a picture of every person's spiritual condition before God. The pastor draws a powerful parallel between Bartimaeus's physical blindness and humanity's spiritual blindness, showing that just as Bartimaeus cried out for mercy and received His sight, every sinner can cry out to Jesus and receive salvation and healing. The sermon emphasizes that mercy is not something we earn or deserve, but something God freely offers to all who call upon His name. The pastor also connects the healing balm of Gilead to the blood of Jesus Christ, explaining that just as the sap from the balsam shrub was released through an incision in its side, the healing power of Christ's blood was released through the wounds He suffered on the cross. The message calls believers to keep crying out to God, to never be silenced by the world, and to follow Jesus faithfully once they have received His mercy, just as Bartimaeus followed Jesus after His sight was restored.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, knowing that it is only by Your mercy that we are here. Lord, as we open Your Word and discuss what You have placed on our hearts, we ask that You would quiet our own thoughts and agendas. Holy Spirit, speak to each person in this room. Open our eyes to see what You want us to see, soften our hearts to receive what You want us to receive, and give us the courage to apply what You reveal. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one unexpected act of kindness or mercy that someone showed you that you still remember to this day?

Key Verses

- Mark 10:46-52
- Isaiah 61:1
- Jeremiah 8:22
- Galatians 6:9

- Revelation 3:17
- Isaiah 53:2
- Luke 22:44

Questions

- Blind Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus even when the crowd told Him to be quiet, and the Bible says He cried out even more. Can you think of a time when you pressed through discouragement or opposition to seek God? What happened?
- The pastor pointed out that the very people who told Bartimaeus to be quiet were the same ones who had to deliver the invitation to come to Jesus. What does that tell us about how God can use unexpected circumstances and even opposition to bring us closer to Him?
- The sermon described America and the modern church as being in a Laodicean condition, referencing Revelation 3:17, where people say they have need of nothing yet are spiritually wretched, poor, blind, and naked. Do you think that description applies to the church today? Why or why not?
- Adrian Rogers said that evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. How does thinking of yourself as a fellow beggar rather than someone who has it all together change the way you share your faith with others?
- The pastor connected the balm of Gilead in Jeremiah 8:22 to the blood of Jesus, noting that the healing sap was released through an incision in the side of the shrub, just as Christ's blood flowed from the wound in His side. How does this picture of Christ's sacrifice deepen your appreciation for what He did on the cross?
- The sermon mentioned several real-life examples of people who received mercy in desperate situations. Can you share a time when God showed up for you in a way that you knew only He could have arranged?
- Galatians 6:9 says, 'And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.' What are some practical ways we can encourage one another to keep pressing forward when we feel like giving up in our walk with God?
- After Bartimaeus received his sight, the Bible says he followed Jesus in the way. The pastor suggested Bartimaeus may have followed Jesus all the way to the cross. What does it look like in your daily life to follow Jesus in the way, not just at the moment of salvation but all the way through?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you have grown quiet about what God has done for you, whether that is sharing your testimony, praying boldly, or praising Him openly. Make a deliberate choice to cry out to God about that area and to tell at least one person what His mercy has meant in your life. Just as Bartimaeus refused to be silenced and received his miracle, step out in faith and let your voice be heard for the glory of God.

Key Takeaways

- Every person is spiritually blind and in need of God's mercy, just as Bartimaeus was physically blind and in need of healing. No one is beyond the reach of Christ's compassion.
- Persistent, bold prayer matters. Bartimaeus cried out louder when the crowd tried to silence him, and Jesus stopped and responded. We should never allow opposition or discouragement to keep us from calling on the name of Jesus.
- The blood of Jesus Christ is the true balm of Gilead. Just as the healing sap of the balsam shrub was released through an incision in its side, the redemptive power of Christ's blood was poured out through His wounds on the cross, and it is sufficient to heal every spiritual wound.
- Mercy is freely available to all. The balm was found on an open hill, accessible to the poor and the rich alike. In the same way, the grace and mercy of God are not reserved for the deserving but are offered freely to all who call upon Him.
- Receiving mercy leads to following Jesus. Once Bartimaeus could see, he did not go his own way. He followed Jesus in the same path Jesus was walking. True salvation results in a life of discipleship and following Christ wherever He leads.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the mercy You have shown each person in this room. We are reminded today that without You, we are blind, poor, and without hope. But because of Your sacrifice on the cross, because of the blood You shed, we have healing, forgiveness, and eternal life. Father, as we leave this place, help us to never grow quiet about what You have done for us. Give us the boldness of Bartimaeus to cry out to You and to tell others where they can find the living bread. And Lord, just as Bartimaeus followed You in the way after His eyes were opened, help us to follow You faithfully every single day, all

the way to the end. May Your mercy be the song on our lips and the testimony of our lives. In the name of Jesus, Amen.