

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

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Text: Mark 10:46-52 (see also Matt. 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43)

Gospel of Mark: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

Central Idea of Message: God immediately honors one's personal belief in the identity of Jesus as the Son of David [synonymous with *the Christ*], in the goodness of Jesus, and in the power of Jesus with the gracious gift of salvation.

Introduction: Episode 56. The healing of this blind beggar, Bartimaeus, is the last recorded miracle performed by Jesus in Mark's gospel before his execution.

Jesus is enroute to his arrest, trial, and crucifixion, but, ever the servant, he still had compassion on those in physical and spiritual need.

I. Jesus Hears Blind Bartimaeus (vv. 46-48)

A. Jesus and his disciples arrive in Jericho (v. 46)

1. Jericho

a) Real place (cf. Grassmick 2:154)

(1) One mile south of the Old Testament city of Jericho [old Jericho]

(2) This is likely the "new" Jericho

(3) Five miles west of a major crossing point on the Jordan River

(4) Fifteen to eighteen miles northeast of Jerusalem

b) Historical battle fought at the old Jericho as the army of Israel marched around the city walls and God then caused them to fall

c) Where Rahab the harlot lived and was preserved because of her faith

2. Bartimaeus

a) Jesus and his disciples, along with a great multitude, were leaving [new] Jericho

b) They happen on to a blind beggar named Bartimaeus sitting by the road

- (1) Matthew records that there were two beggars, but Mark focuses in on the one most vocal (Matt. 20:30)
- (2) *Bar* is Hebrew for *son of*
- (3) Timaeus is listed as the name of the father
 - c) Sitting beside the road [Mark is indicating that Bartimaeus was a regular there]
- B. The cries of Bartimaeus (v. 47)
 - 1. He could not see, but he could hear just fine
 - 2. When he heard chatter that Jesus the Nazarene was there he began to cry out
 - 3. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
 - a) Calls Jesus by name, having undoubtedly heard about him
 - b) Acknowledged Jesus as the Son of David
 - (1) First time Jesus is called by this title in Mark's gospel narrative
 - (2) A descendant of David
 - (3) In the kingly tribe of Judah, so this is "royal ideology" (cf. France in Decker 2:74) and thus an expression affirming that Jesus met this criterion [descendant of David] for being the Messiah
 - (4) Likely, then, a reference to the Messiah (2 Sam. 7:11-16; Isa. 9:7)
 - (5) Functional equivalent of *Christ* (France in Decker 2:74)
 - (6) Jesus will use this title to refer to himself in Mark 12:35 in connection with the title of "Christ"
 - (7) Might be a confession from Bartimaeus
 - c) Begged Jesus to have mercy on him
- C. Many were sternly telling Bartimaeus to hush (v. 48)
 - 1. Scolding him over and over, telling him to shut his mouth
 - a) Because they were protecting Jesus from being troubled by a beggar?
 - b) Because they didn't agree with the Messianic claim of Bartimaeus?
 - 2. But to no avail
 - a) Bartimaeus would not be silenced!
 - b) This was his one chance at being healed, and he wasn't about to let Jesus pass him by without at least trying to get his attention!

3. Bartimaeus, determined to get a response from Jesus, cried out all the more begging for the "Son of David" to have mercy on him

II. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (vv. 49-52)

- A. Jesus has Bartimaeus summoned (v. 49)
 1. Jesus stopped in his tracks and instructed those nearby to call Bartimaeus
 2. Those who heard the instructions of Jesus called Bartimaeus
 - a) They told him to take courage, and arise, because Jesus was calling for him!
 - b) How exciting!
- B. Bartimaeus came immediately to Jesus (v. 50)
 1. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!
 2. He cast aside his cloak
 3. He jumped up
 4. He went to Jesus
 5. The crowd must have frozen, and even stepped out of the way to let Bartimaeus through
- C. Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted him to do for him (v. 51)
 1. Jesus certainly knew what a blind man wanted, but he gave Bartimaeus an opportunity to express evidence of his faith
 2. Bartimaeus called Jesus *Rabboni*
 - a) Highly respectful address which expresses personal faith (cf. Wiersbe, *Exposition*, 1:148)
 - b) Strengthened form of Rabbi, combining *Teacher* and *Lord* (cf. Burdick 1011)
 - c) Means *My Master*
 3. His request was simple and to the point
 - a) "I want to regain my sight"
 - (1) Here is a beggar not asking for money!
 - (2) His was an appeal for healing!
 - (3) With regained vision, Bartimaeus knew he would no longer need to beg, because he intended to work
 - b) This answer indicates that Bartimaeus had not been born blind
 - c) He must have lost his sight due, perhaps, to an illness, disease, or as the result of an accident
 - d) Commentators point out that many were blind, perhaps due to dust, the glare of the sun,

and due to unsanitary habits (cf. Robertson 1:356)

- D. Jesus heals Bartimaeus (v. 52)
1. Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well"
 - a) "Go your way"
 - (1) Subjective Genitive
 - (2) Personal faith originating from within Bartimaeus
 - b) "Your faith"
 - (1) Cured you once and for all
 - (2) Same verb means physical healing and/or spiritual healing
 - (3) Mark probably intends for his readers to understand a double-meaning, that is both healed and saved, as suggested by Bartimaeus' next move
 2. Immediately, Bartimaeus regained his sight and began following Jesus on the road
 - a) The long road to Jerusalem
 - b) The long road to death for Jesus

Conclusion: Principles.

(1) Please note the irony that a *blind* man could *recognize* the royalty of Jesus as the Christ when most of those who could see did not recognize Jesus' royalty (v. 47).

(2) Jesus gave Bartimaeus an opportunity to express his faith, even in a public way, and doing so was the best thing Bartimaeus ever did (v. 51)!

(3) God immediately honors one's personal belief in the identity of Jesus as the Son of David [synonymous with *the Christ*], in the goodness of Jesus, and in the power of Jesus with the gracious gift of salvation (v. 52).

(4) Need, gratitude, and loyalty to Jesus summarize Bartimaeus' encounter with Christ; what summarizes your encounter with him (v. 52)?