

Pastor Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

**Mark 10:46-52 | Spiritual Insight**

May 23, 2021

**WELCOME:**

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 10:46.
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

→ Memorial Day - Pastor Thomas  
 → Brim's housing

Today is Pentecost Sunday—remember and honor the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles in Jerusalem — Acts 2:1-31.

It's also Baptism Sunday for us! -Coincidence?

We will be celebrating four baptisms today during our worship service.

We baptized Bobbie Davis at sunrise this morning.

We will also be having a time of fellowship with a potluck after service, so you are all invited to that.

**REVIEW:**

The ugliness of personal ambition.

+

Ambition—a drive and determination to get what you want, when you want it— all at the cost of others.

+

cf. **James 3:16**— For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice.

→ sacrificial love

Personal ambition is the antithesis of the agape love that Christ commands of us.

+

Love—an obedience to Jesus that propels me to action for the good of others—no matter the cost.

**KEYPOINT:**

1. Ambitious people ask audacious questions. *is do Aud. things*
2. Jesus' glory is Jesus' cross.
3. The Disciples wanted the rewards without the cost. *suffering*
4. The disciples would rather bear a grudge than bear a cross. *Temporary*
5. God's grace is an eternal gift that will cost you everything in this life.

So all that to say this—the Lord Jesus taught us that He does not favor and will not tolerate an ambitious Church.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Today we see Jesus' last healing miracle in the gospel of Mark.

The setting is the city of Jericho.

Jericho is vital because the Jews would avoid traveling through the middle part of Israel called Samaria.

They would bypass Samaria, walk through Perea, cross the Jordan River at Jericho, and head toward Jerusalem.

Needless to say, there is a tremendous amount of foot traffic in Jericho, especially during the springtime when people are celebrating the Passover.

Knowing the number of travelers, many people with infirmities would sit alongside the road and beg for their daily bread.

Today we are going to meet one of those beggars. His name is Bartimaeus.

Brother Bart has a crucial lesson to teach us today.



What is that lesson? Let's find out!

*\*Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.\**

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:46-52 CSB**

**Mark 10:46**— They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road.

**Mark 10:47**— When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

**Mark 10:48**— Many warned him to keep quiet, but he was crying out all the more, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!"

**Mark 10:49**— Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up; he's calling for you."

**Mark 10:50**— He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

**Mark 10:51**— Then Jesus answered him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Rabboni," the blind man said to him, "I want to see."

**Mark 10:52**— Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you."

Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.

*\*\*These are the very words from God for us this morning.\*\**

**PRAY:**

- Pentecost Sunday
- Baptisms
- Spiritual Insight



**EXEGESIS:**

**Mark 10:46**— They came to Jericho. And as <sup>Jesus</sup> he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road.

So as we mentioned, Jesus and the Twelve follow the usual route to Jerusalem from the north.

Jericho is approximately 15 miles from Jerusalem.

In the first century, two Jericho's existed—The OT Jericho and the NT Jericho.

These two cities were only separated by about three miles.

The OT Jericho was destroyed when Israel conquered the land in Joshua 6.

As you'll remember, the Israelites kept walking around the city until the walls fell down.

OT Jericho was still somewhat occupied during the first century, but for the most part, people lived in the new city.

Three interesting things about Jericho:

1. The NT Jericho was built by Herod the Great.

It was a beautiful city, "The City of Roses."

2. Some believe that the outskirts of Jericho were the area where Satan tempted Jesus for forty days. (Mark 1:13)

3. Archaeologists believe that Jericho is the oldest city on the face of the planet — ~~9000 BC~~. Damascus is the second oldest city.

On your way to Jerusalem from the north, you had to first go through OT Jericho to get to the New.

This conversation with Bartimaeus most likely happened between the two Jerichos as Jesus came out of the OT Jericho and approached the NT Jericho.

That detail is important because Mark and Matthew say that Jesus was "leaving" while Luke says they are "approaching."

*Sounds like a contradiction in Scripture.*

This has caused a bit of confusion with folks who don't realize that there were two cities.

So we do not have a contradiction in God's Word.

The gospel of Mark tells us this man's name—Bartimaeus.

This is the only time in the gospel where we learn the name of the person being healed.

This is also an important detail—we'll get to that in a minute.

Verse 46 tells us that Bartimaeus is a blind beggar that was sitting alongside the road.

In other words, he was the lowest of the low—in terms of his status.

Bartimaeus was one click above a tax collector in the eyes of Jewish society.

Jewish theology also taught that he was blind because of his sin.

In John 9, we see this theology play out when the disciples asked about another blind man.

*A different*



They asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

So all that to say, no one gives a rip about Bart. He's one of society's expendables.

**Mark 10:47**— When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Now, Bart heard the crowd coming—and obviously asked somebody what was going on.

That someone must have said, "it's Jesus the Nazerene."

That's not a compliment.

When Philip invited Nathanael to meet Jesus, Nate said, "**Can anything good come out of Nazareth?**" (John 1:46)

Well, evidently Bartimaeus does—because he immediately begins to shout for Jesus.

Clearly, he's heard of Jesus.

Think about this—Bart's a beggar, so he's hearing people walk by him day in and day—talking about this Jesus healing people and raising the dead.

Not only does he know about Jesus, he believes that Jesus is truly God.

Because Bart calls Jesus by His messianic title!

**"Jesus, Son of David."**

Up to this point, whenever that kind of Messianic language was spoken, Jesus immediately silenced the person who said it.

Jesus asked the disciples in Mark 8:29, "**who do you say that I am.**"

Peter responds, "**You are the Messiah.**" And then Jesus tells them to tell no one.

All those <sup>possessed people</sup> demon spirits who fell in front of Jesus and shouted the same thing—  
Jesus told them to zip it (3:12).

But Bartimaeus called Jesus the *Son of David* repeatedly and at full volume— and Jesus doesn't silence Him.

Why? God's sovereign and providential timing.

Think about what's happening at this moment.

Jesus is walking towards Jerusalem to fulfill that <sup>Messianic</sup> title, and now he wants everyone to know it.

For Bartimaeus to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, he had to know his OT.

cf. **Jeremiah 23:5**—"Look, the days are coming"—this is the Lord's declaration—"when I will raise up a Righteous Branch for David. He will reign wisely as king and administer justice and righteousness in the land."

cf. **Ezekiel 34:23**—I will establish over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will shepherd them. He will tend them himself and will be their shepherd.

cf. **Ezekiel 34:24**—I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among them. I, the Lord, have spoken.

So, it's no accident that Bart uses Jesus' Messianic title.

Bartimaeus is very specific here.



~~He knew, somehow in some way, that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah.~~

He knew that the Messiah would come out of the family line of King David (2 Sam. 7:12-13; Isa. 9:7).

Bart knows the divine promises made to King David.

Promises like the ones of healing.

cf. **Isaiah 35:5**—Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

cf. **Isaiah 42:16**—I will lead the blind by a way they did not know; I will guide them on paths they have not known. I will turn darkness to light in front of them and rough places into level ground.

This is what I will do for them, and I will not abandon them.

Wow.

Secondly, Bart cried out for mercy.

Mercy—to show compassion.

**Mark 10:48**—Many warned him to keep quiet, but he was crying out all the more, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!"

The dichotomy of Bart crying out and begging for mercy while the crowd them is merciless is apparent in verse 48.

The crowd thought that Jesus would not want to have anything to do with a needy beggar.



But Bartimaeus would not be discouraged.

He kept on crying out for mercy.

**KEYPOINT: #1**

*Bartimaeus may lack physical eyesight but not spiritual insight.*

V.48 *He was crying out all the more*—the crowds rebuke only magnify Bart's cries.

So picture this... Blind Bart is crying and chanting at the top of his lungs.

He <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ desperate, miserable, and wretched... which means he's frantic.

He gets himself all worked up into a state of frenzy.

The people around him are telling him to "shut up!"

"Bart, you're making a scene."

But there is no way this blind beggar named Bartimeaus is going to back down now.

He's beyond their control.

He knows he has one chance for complete healing, and he's going to do everything he can to get Jesus' attention.

Why? Because Bart knows something, the crowd doesn't.

He knows that Jesus is God.

We have seen this kind of grit from others as we've studied the gospel of Mark.

Both the leper and the hemorrhaging woman ignored the public health laws that said you couldn't touch others. (1:40–45; 5:25–34).

Remember the four guys that ripped Peter's roof off his house to drop their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus (2:1–12).

Jairus ignored the mockery of the crowd when Jesus said his daughter was only sleeping. (5:35–43).

The Syrophenician woman didn't give up until Jesus healed her demon-possessed daughter. (Mark 7:24–30).

Remember the desperate father who had to overcome his doubt for Jesus to heal his son. He said, *"I believe, but help me with my unbelief."* (9:14–29).

And we see this tenacious determination here in Bartimaeus.

Jesus hears this cry for help and mercy. What's he do?

**Mark 10:49**— Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

He stopped, just like he did for the hemorrhaging woman.

So even though the crowd tries to shut him down and shut him up...Bart is relentless.

And look what happened. Jesus stops for him.

Jesus stops and says, *"Call him,"*

The original Greek reads, "And Jesus stood (still)."

Think about that.



The compassion of Jesus as the Son of Man.

Jesus allows a poor and powerless man to stop him in his tracks.

Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem to be spit upon, mocked, flogged, and nailed to a cross.

And yet, He has time for a conversation with a poor, dirty beggar.

This validates last Sunday's lesson on how Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

**KEYPOINT:** #2

*The crowd usually gets things wrong. — Some thing happens today.*

Unlike the crowd, Jesus doesn't silence Bartimaeus.

Nor does Jesus reject the title "Son of David."

Up until this point, Jesus silenced anyone who gave Him that title.

Not here. Not anymore.

Jesus was fulfilling His messianic mission.

There's no reason to keep it a secret.

Jesus is now welcoming the crowds as He walks into Jerusalem for Palm Sunday.

Back to...

**Mark 10:49**—So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up; he's calling for you."

It is one thing for us to call on the Lord Jesus.

It's another thing entirely when the Lord Jesus calls you.

Notice the fickleness, impulsiveness, and unpredictability of the crowd.

One moment they despise him; the next, they're encouraging him.

**Mark 10:50**— He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

Isn't that what everyone should do when Jesus calls them?

Bart jumps up/sprang up in faith and eagerness.

His mood immediately changes from despair to hope.

His coat was his outer coat.

Evidently, he didn't want anything to slow him down as people rushed him to Jesus.

Heb 12:1 - let us throw off every thing that hinders - TO RUN W/ PERSEVERENCE THE RACE WHICH IS SET BEFORE US.

③ He probably spread out this coat to receive alms/handouts as the people passed by.

① Leaving his coat behind is an unusual act for a blind man.

② Poor people usually have all their belongings within reach.

This reminds me of the Samaritan woman at the well who left her bucket.

**Mark 10:51**— Then Jesus answered him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Rabboni," the blind man said to him, "I want to see."

Now, isn't it obvious?

Wasn't it clear what the blind man wanted?



Evidently not.

Just over the past few weeks, we've seen how the Pharisees wanted to outsmart and trap Jesus (10:2).

The Rich Young Ruler wanted eternal life at <sup>minimal</sup> ~~minimum~~ cost (10:17).

James and John wanted to sit at Jesus' right and left (10:35-36).

So Jesus simply asks Bartimaeus a question... ***"What do you want me to do for you?"***

In other words, Jesus makes Bart express his need.

Who knows, maybe Bart just wanted a handout.

***"What do you want Me to do for you?"***



Does that question ring a bell from last week?

It's the same exact question that Jesus asked James and John in verse 36

*1 - last week  
wow*

The blind man said to him, "I want to see."

Bartimaeus was not asking for status.

*like last week*

He was not asking for glory.

He was begging the Lord Jesus for something that many of us take for granted every day.



He wants his eyesight.

Now, Bartimaeus called Jesus ***"Rabboni."***

This is the same title Mary Magdalene proclaimed when she saw the risen Christ. (John 20:16).

*Rabboni* is a slight alteration from Rabbi.

But just because there's a small difference doesn't mean that it's not significant because it is.

*Rabboni* means far more than "teacher" —like the word Rabbi.

It's a much more personal title.

What Bartimaeus was saying to Jesus was this, "*My Lord and my Master, let me see.*"

It's much more personal and significantly more reverent.

So as we flashback to last week...

**"What do you want Me to do for you?"**

We had the Sons of Thunder asked for extraordinary glory— Bartimaeus asks for ordinary health.

James and John want to sit on thrones while Bartimaeus sits in the dust.

The Sons of Thunder ask to be superhuman, but Bart simply wants to be a human.

**Mark 10:52**— Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you." Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.

Matthew records that Jesus healed him with a touch, while Luke notes that Jesus spoke the word of healing: "Receive your sight."



Mark simply records what happened after the miracle...

So All this happened, but each gospel writer focuses on a specific aspect of the healing

So picture this...your standing in the crowd watching this miracle take place.

And the first thing that Bart see's is Jesus' face.



How does Bart react?

Jesus says, "Go."

This was not an abrupt dismissal.

It could be translated as 'You may go.'

It simply means that he is now cured; he didn't have to sit alongside the road begging any longer.

*your faith has saved you*—

Jesus had used these words once before when he healed the woman with the hemorrhage (5:34).

Now, this is one of those verses that false prosperity preachers will beat you with if you're not careful.

I've talked a lot about this over the past year, and every time it comes up in Scripture, we're going to talk about it.

There are people in the church today who treat this verse as an entitlement for miraculous healings.

These guys are all over YouTube and have million-dollar ministries.

\*

Pause

MIRACLES

woman w/ hemorrhage

- because it's so mixed into the church  
- robust work of God is exceedingly pure, & your servant loves it.  
Ps. 119:148



And yet they take these healing verses like this— way out of context and couldn't be more wrong in their interpretation.

What false prosperity preachers say is that you can be healed of anything as long as you have enough faith.

Which is a lie straight from the pit of hell.



**KEYPOINT:**

#3

Those who go to Jesus for miracles won't believe His Words.

They'll go to church for the music to get them all excited.

They'll go to church to hear a famous pulpiteer to get their ears tickled.

And yet, when the music fades, and the so-called miracles don't work...where do they go now?

→ that false church teaching & false doctrine

They leave because they believed the lie that somehow they don't have enough faith.

Let's keep this verse in its original context,

Yes, Jesus chose to heal Bartimaeus.

The word "Saved" has a double meaning.

Sōzō— refers to both physical and spiritual salvation for Bart.

Here's what this verse doesn't mean.

→ It doesn't mean that God will heal you from fear in firmity.  
- Almighty God is holy - not a cosmic genie.



**KEYPOINT:**

#4

Our faith doesn't tell God what to do.

And that's exactly what happens when we take a scripture out of context.



God is sovereign and has the right to say no to our prayers.

And do w/ your life whatever He chooses to do.

Please know that if you are not healed physically, the reason is not that your faith is lacking...as the false prosperity preachers teach.

But that God has sovereignly decided that healing is not best for you at this time.

cf. **Isaiah 55:8**— "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways."

This is the Lord's declaration.

cf. **Isaiah 55:9**— "For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

**KEYPOINT: #5**

Your faith during physical <sup>trial</sup> pain allows you to <sup>engage</sup> participate spiritually in the healing process.

- physical health is important - but your spiritual health is much more important.

**KEYPOINT: #6**

Faith that demands proof is not faith.

When God answers, "No" or "Not now," it is not that we necessarily lack faith.

And it certainly doesn't have anything to do with God not loving us.

It's that God has a better plan for you. for your life.

Just because God said "no" to your prayer doesn't mean He doesn't love you.

How many times did your parents or caregivers say "no" to you as a child?

God the Father said "no" to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane three times.



Jesus told the Apostle Paul that His grace was sufficient for his suffering. (2 Cor. 12:9).

So don't you dare believe the lie that you don't have enough faith or that God doesn't love you. - *As you experience trials*

**KEYPOINT: #7**  
*God proved His love for you on the cross.*

So whenever you start to doubt God's love, run to the cross.

And it's because of the cross where you must embrace God's plan for life.

This is not your best life now.

\* If you're a child of God, this life is as bad as it gets.

How do we know this?

*cf. John 14:1*—"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

*cf. John 14:2*—In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

Dear friends, Jesus Himself is preparing an eternal place in Heaven for you.

Now, If you're not a child of God—*MEANING* if you refuse to call on the name of Jesus to save you from your sin and reject and dismiss Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—

If you don't fear God and think all this is one big cosmic joke.

This life is as good as it gets. *-for you,* How do we know?



cf. **Luke 12:4**— "I say to you, my friends, don't fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more.

cf. **Luke 12:5**— But I will show you the one to fear: Fear him who has authority to throw people into hell after death.

Hell is a very real place where people will experience God's holy and righteous wrath forever and ever.

It's the same wrath that Jesus experienced on the cross for those who believe.

All that to say this...

This life is filled with suffering.

**KEYPOINT:** #8

We are not to run from suffering but trust God in the suffering.

Much too often, we settle for God's best because we refuse to join in God's plan.

God tells us that we will be tested, and then when it happens, we act like we had no idea that it was coming!

cf. **James 1:2**— Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials,

cf. **James 1:3**— because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

cf. **James 1:4**— And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

**KEYPOINT:** #9

Your relationship with God is determined by your faith.

revealed by your obedience to the Word of God.



When God speaks to you through His Word, His Spirit or godly counsel, what you do next proves what you believe about God— regardless of what we say.

*in your pain's suffering*

**Mark 10:52**— Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.

This is so cool.

When Jesus called the Twelve disciples to follow Him, they did.

They abandoned their former ways of life and left everything.

The only thing this man had was his coat.

You and I don't think that's a big deal, but it was his only worldly possession.

His coat would have been placed right before him to collect handouts by day and would have kept him warm by night.

*He needed it for survival*

And yet he left it. *wow*

I'm reminded of two things here.

1. Jesus told the Rich Young Ruler to sell all that he had and then follow Him.

Now leaving a coat on the ground is seem easier than selling all that you have, but wasn't that Jesus' exact point?

That your precious possessions are a hindrance to Heaven. (Mark 10:24–25).

2. I'm also reminded of the Samaritan woman at the well.



After having a conversation with Jesus, she left her water bucket, which was necessary for the first century to survive.

I guess my point is this... when you encounter Jesus as the One True Living God—who saves your wretched soul from the fires of hell, you leave everything and follow Him.

Back to...

**Mark 10:52**— Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you."

Bartimaeus, however, doesn't leave.

He could have run through the city to see what he's been missing.

He could have taken a leisurely stroll through the countryside to see God's creation.

Not Bartimaeus.

As soon as Bart received his sight, he laid eyes on Jesus—the Son of David.

And he wanted nothing more than to follow Him to Jerusalem to His death.

There's a deep irony in this story—

Blind Bartimaeus saw Jesus more clearly than those with 20/20 vision.

He immediately becomes a follower of Jesus; he joins the crowd.

**cf. Luke 18:43**— Instantly, he could see, and he began to follow him, glorifying God. All the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Why do you think our gospel writer, Mark, included this poor beggar's name in this narrative?

Most everyone else is known by their worldly identity and problem:

- Syrophenician woman with the demon-possessed daughter.
- All the lepers/leprosy
- The hemorrhaging woman
- Rich Young Ruler
- The Father with the demon-possessed son.
- The Gerasene demoniac.

Why not just leave Bart's name out and just call him—the Blind Beggar?

Because this is not only his testimony, but it's his destiny.

Many believe that Bart went on to be a leader in the Jerusalem church.

He may have been one of the 120 in the upper room at Pentecost. (Acts 1:15)

He may have been part of the 500 to watch Jesus ascend back to Heaven. (1 Cor. 15:6)

Jesus gave this man a new <sup>physical</sup> life—<sup>3</sup>eternal life. And Brother Bart was not going to leave his side.

### PREACH:

The question Jesus posed to James and John from last week and to Bartimaeus this week is,

**"What do you want Me to do for you?"**

It's a pretty important question for all of us—because, spiritually speaking, we're all just like Bart.



Spiritual beggars with no hope <sup>For</sup> apart for the grace and cross of Jesus Christ.

Jesus also asked the Twelve, who do you say that I am? (Mark 8:29)

These two questions are the most important questions God ever asks us.

Unfortunately, many times we give the wrong answers.

We ask for a better tomorrow, whatever that means, and yet the Word of God says

**cf. James 4:14**— Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes.

For those of you who have not accepted the gift of grace through Jesus Christ, I pray that you would do some business with God today.   
 - Believe in your heart = Justice - T Righteous  
 - Confess w/ your mouth = Salvat

For those of you who call River Bible Church home, I want to encourage you to share this message of spiritual insight with the people that the Lord places around you this week.

God Intersections / Divine App't's.  
Please continue to practice the 3 Circles, invite people to church, and spread the gospel seed!   
 - Pray!

**BAPTISM on Pentecost Sunday!**

We are going to continue worshiping the Lord Jesus through song.

This is going to give us enough time to change clothes for four baptisms.



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