

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Theme: Winning the Brawl -- What Do I Do With What God Is Doing in Me?

Day 1: You Need Jesus More Than You Know

Reading: Mark 10:46-47 -- The account of Bartimaeus crying out to Jesus despite his blindness, recognizing Jesus as his only source of help.

Devotional: There is a particular kind of courage in admitting need. Bartimaeus was blind, poor, and sitting on the side of a road when Jesus passed by. He did not pretend to have things under control. He did not wait until circumstances improved. He simply cried out. Many of us carry burdens -- for our children, our marriages, our futures -- as though the outcome depends entirely on us. It does not. Acknowledging your need for Jesus is not weakness. It is the beginning of freedom. Today, stop performing. Stop pretending. Cry out honestly, and mean it.

Reflection Question: What burden are you carrying right now that was never yours to carry in the first place?

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where you have been trying to play the role of Savior. Write it down and intentionally release it in prayer today, naming it specifically before God.

Day 2: Do Not Let the Crowd Silence You

Reading: Mark 10:48 -- The crowd attempts to silence Bartimaeus, but he cries out all the more, refusing to let opposition diminish his pursuit of Jesus.

Devotional: The voices that tell you to be quiet are rarely trying to help you. They are trying to protect comfort -- their own and sometimes yours. Bartimaeus heard the crowd telling him to stop, and he responded by getting louder. His desperation outweighed his embarrassment. Consider the voices in your own life that have quieted your pursuit of God. Past failure, insecurity, fear, and the opinions of

others can all function as a crowd that drowns out the cry of your heart. Spiritual maturity is not silence. It is learning whose voice carries the most weight.

Reflection Question: What voice has been most effective at silencing your pursuit of Jesus, and why have you given it that authority?

Practical Application: Write down one thing -- a fear, a past failure, or a person's opinion -- that has quieted your faith. Then, in prayer, consciously choose to cry out louder than that voice today.

Day 3: He Stops for You

Reading: Mark 10:49 -- Jesus stops everything, instructs the crowd to call Bartimaeus forward, and the crowd tells the blind man to take heart because Jesus is calling him.

Devotional: Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, moving toward the most significant event in human history. He had disciples around him, a crowd following him, and an eternal mission before him. And yet he stopped for one blind beggar on the side of the road. This is who Jesus is. He is not too busy, too important, or too far removed to stop for you. The crowd even changed its tone -- from silencing Bartimaeus to encouraging him. When Jesus calls, everything shifts. Take heart today. The same Jesus who stopped for Bartimaeus has not changed. He stops for anyone who calls on his name.

Reflection Question: Do you genuinely believe that Jesus stops for you personally, or do you treat his attention as something reserved for others?

Practical Application: Spend ten minutes today in complete silence, positioning yourself before God as Bartimaeus did -- expectant, not performing, simply present and waiting for Jesus to speak.

Day 4: Pursuit Requires Movement

Reading: Mark 10:50 -- Bartimaeus throws off his cloak and springs to his feet, moving toward Jesus the moment he hears that Jesus is calling for him.

Devotional: The cloak Bartimaeus threw aside was not just clothing. It was his boundary marker, his comfort, his identity as a blind beggar. When Jesus called, Bartimaeus did not fold the cloak neatly and set it aside. He threw it off. There is a moment in every season of genuine pursuit when movement is required -- not a full plan, not a ten-step strategy, just a step. God is not asking you to have everything figured out. He is asking you to let go of what is holding you back and move toward him. You cannot hold on to everything behind you and walk fully into everything ahead of you.

Reflection Question: What is your cloak -- the comfort, identity, or habit that you keep holding onto even as God is calling you forward?

Practical Application: Take one concrete step today in an area where God has been prompting you. It does not have to be large. Sign up, make the call, send the message, show up. Movement is the answer to the wrestle.

Day 5: Available Before You Have All the Answers

Reading: Mark 10:51-52 -- Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants, Bartimaeus asks for his sight, and Jesus heals him immediately. Bartimaeus then follows Jesus on the road.

Devotional: Jesus asked Bartimaeus a question he already knew the answer to. He did not need information. He was inviting Bartimaeus into a declaration of faith -- a moment of putting his yes on the table before the outcome was guaranteed. Bartimaeus did not receive his sight and then decide to follow Jesus. He threw off his cloak, moved toward Jesus, stated his need, and received everything. The order matters. Availability comes before clarity. You do not need to know the full plan before you say yes. God has never required you to understand the destination before you take the first step. He only asks if you are willing to move.

Reflection Question: Where is God asking you to say yes before you have all the answers, and what is making that difficult?

Practical Application: Write a simple, honest prayer of availability. Do not make it complicated. Tell God specifically what you are willing to do and where you are willing to go, even without knowing the full picture. Then sign it with today's date as a marker of your commitment.

Reflection Questions:

Bartimaeus cried out louder when the crowd tried to silence him -- in what areas of your spiritual life have you allowed outside voices, past experiences, or fear to quiet your pursuit of Jesus, and what would it look like to cry out louder in those areas?

The sermon suggests that we often try to carry burdens, like the salvation of loved ones, that were never ours to carry -- how does genuinely accepting that others need Jesus just as much as you do change the way you relate to the people around you?

Pastor Mickey says we never outgrow our need for Jesus, yet many people live as though spiritual maturity means becoming more self-sufficient -- how does your daily life reflect either dependence on or independence from Christ?

Bartimaeus threw off his cloak, the very thing that represented his comfort and security, before he even reached Jesus -- what is the cloak in your own life that you are holding onto, and what might God be asking you to release before you can move forward?

The sermon raises the question of whether you love God more than what is holding you back -- how do you honestly answer that question, and what does your answer reveal about the priorities that are shaping your decisions?

Pastor Mickey describes the brawl not as a fight against people but as a fight for your family, your faith, your future, and the people God has placed around you -- how does reframing your spiritual struggle this way change your motivation to press through it?

Mark 10 describes Jesus stopping everything for one blind beggar on the side of the road -- what does this reveal about how God values individuals, and how does that truth challenge the way you see yourself and others in moments of need?

The sermon draws a connection between spiritual conviction and the urgency Bartimaeus felt, warning that if you ignore the Spirit's prompting long enough you can stop hearing it altogether -- can you identify a moment when you delayed responding to God's call, and what was the cost of that delay?

David Livingstone's quote, 'Do not come if you need roads, for the men who join me must be about building roads, not traveling them,' is used to illustrate the call to pursue something beyond the familiar -- in what ways is God calling you to build rather than simply travel a road someone else has

already paved?

The sermon closes with the idea that what you are wrestling with right now is bigger than your present moment and may shape the lives of people you have not yet met -- how does that long-term perspective change the way you view your current struggle and the next step God is asking you to take?