

## **Mark 10:46-52 – A Great Servant Leader: Illustrated**

TSK, Handfuls, Robertson, Poole, PNT, JFB, Geneva, Henry, Calvin, Brink, Rienecker, Spurgeon, Gill, Broadus, Vincent?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: James and John **wanted prominent positions in Christ's kingdom and to be served in it**. Instead, **Jesus told them** they had to be humble and serve the lowest in his kingdom. (The rewards will come later in heaven.) But more than talking, **Jesus illustrated** that humility and service he wanted his disciples to have. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

**Seeking the Needy**

**Sorting out his Needs**

**Solving his Needs**

Our goals are: **That you will learn to seek out and serve the needy so they can serve Christ better and bring more glory to him.**

### **Seeking the Needy**

46 Now they came to Jericho. **As He went out of Jericho** with His disciples ( 門徒 ) and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the **son of Timaeus**, sat by the road **begging**.

#### **1. Jesus, with his disciples and a great multitude following him, came to Jericho, a small town near the Dead Sea, about 15 miles east of Jerusalem.**

This is not the Jericho that had been destroyed by God during the time of Joshua. That Jericho was further north.

#### **2. As Jesus and the crowd left Jericho, Blind Bartimaeus was there begging, probably with his father, according to Matt. 20:30.**

Bartimaeus means "son of Timaeus," or "son of a blind man." It seems that both father and son were blind, having a common disease of the time. Blindness often occurred from drinking polluted water from creeks.

#### **3. The blind often begged in ancient Israel.**

They had few means of supporting themselves. There were no welfare (福利) checks coming. Even if there were jobs they could do, it would often not be jobs that were of great value. They did not want to steal. So they begged.

#### **4. This picture is sadder because of the place where the man was begging-near the Dead Sea- a symbol of hopelessness...a place where nothing grew or lived.**

Some, with good reason, believed the Dead Sea was the place where Sodom and Gomorrah (2 of the worst cities in history) were located.

#### **5. Lessons:**

**a. It is better to beg than to steal.** It might be humiliating (羞辱的) to beg, but it is not immoral to beg if you have nothing and can't work. It is immoral to steal.

**b. It is the function of the church to care for those who are unable to provide for themselves.**

This is all the more reason for your faithful giving to the work of the Lord. The state has limited functions in God's world. Deacons care for the poor in pocket. Elders care for the needy soul. Fathers care for the financial and spiritual needs of his family.

**c. The needy are everywhere. Leaders must take the time to look for them.** They are all across the world or in your neighborhood.

### **Sorting out his Need**

47 And when he heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth**, he began **to cry out** and say, "**Jesus, Son of David**, have mercy on me!" 48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

**1. Bartimaeus, when he heard Jesus was passing by, prayed to him.**

**a. He prayed because he had faith in Jesus.** No one can pray without faith. You can see the fact of his faith in that he addressed Jesus, not as the common people, but he called for Jesus of Nazareth, the "Son of David." **He knew that Jesus was the Messiah by his use of this title. His faith was based on knowledge. The foundation of faith is knowledge.**

**b. He prayed persistently (坚持不懈地)**. He began and continued to cry out. He really wanted to see – to have functioning eyes. He wanted to work and provide for his family. Even as he did this, the people around tried to silence him...thinking that **Jesus was only for "normal" people.**

**c. He prayed with wisdom.** You have to know for what you may pray. This is the growing faith!

**d. He prayed very loudly – showing great zeal.** It was not a whisper...but it was a cry...even a loud cry...a scream. He wasn't ashamed. He knew his need was greater than his shame.

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

**2. Because of his persistent prayer that he made through faith, Jesus called him to find out his story.**

Jesus did not ignore him because he was poor, blind, and likely, dirty.

Jesus did not ignore Bartimaeus because other people ignored him and tried to silence him. A real leader is not a follower.

50 And **throwing aside his garment**, he **rose** and **came to Jesus**.

**3. So Bartimaeus jumped up and headed to Jesus.**

"Rose" (V50) is better translated "sprang-up," (跳起) showing his eagerness to meet Jesus. He responded with urgency to the voice of the Lord. **Bartimaeus' faith made him removed obstacles to get to Jesus.** He tossed aside his clothes, showing he wanted nothing to hinder him from coming to Christ. It was not normal to toss aside clothes...as clothes were really expensive.

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**"

The blind man said to Him, "**Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.**"

**4. Jesus then asked Bartimaeus what he wanted.**

**Bartimaeus was very clear with what he wanted...** "Dear teacher, I want to see."

His prayer was simple, natural, earnest speech and he showed **respect to his master.**

**5. But why would Jesus want him to say what he wanted if Jesus already knew what he wanted?**

**Jesus wanted to teach those around that they needed to investigate the needs of the needy... and get men to confess what they need.**

**6. Lessons:**

**a. Never be afraid or ashamed to ask for help from others.** When you ask for help, the leaders are being trained to serve! The leaders don't always know what your needs are. So speak up.

**b. Never be afraid or ashamed to pray to your Heavenly Father for help.** You don't need flamboyant (浮夸的) language to speak to the Lord...just a good sense of your need. Of course you must know your Bible well enough to pray knowledgably.

**c. When you hear the Lord calling, be eager to move.** When the Lord calls it is

always for a blessing. So even if you have put things aside to come near to Jesus, do it.

**d. A good leader challenges the needy to confess his sins and challenges him to put his faith in Jesus. A good leader seeks out the needs of his flock by faithful investigation.**

**e. A good leader does not think someone is too sinful...too hopeless...too uneducated...too poor...to get attention.** The Lord is interested in the most sinful... stubborn...silly...and selfish soul...Especially think about this with young covenant约 children. Don't treat them as pagans. Don't ignore your children.

### **Solving the needs**

52 Then Jesus said to him, "**Go your way**; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

#### **1. Jesus then healed Bartimaeus by his powerful word and touch; he did it miraculously.**

Christ's touch (Matthew) showed that he **really personally cared** for the man. He could have been rubbing shoulders with the intelligent (有知识的人) or with the people in the upper class of society, but he did not ignore the ones who were "down and out" in their lives. Misery (悲惨) is the object of mercy... and Christ showed that.

#### **2. Did the man's prayer heal him?**

After all, there are many t-shirts and banners that have the words "Prayer Changes Things" written on them. Many people on TV say this. Many evangelical (福音派的) preachers preach this. But the answer is "no." Prayer changes nothing. Prayer heals none. It was the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that healed Blind Bartimaeus.

#### **3. Jesus sends Bartimaeus' about his business.**

What was Bartimaeus' new business?

**a. His business was to follow Jesus. He did not have to be physically near Jesus to follow him. He had to love Jesus and show that he did by following Jesus' commands.**

**b. His business was to show that he was healed**...walk by himself. He had to tell what the Lord had done for him by his life. This would cause non-believers to ask questions. This would strengthen the faith of those who believe.

**c. His business was praising Jesus, according to Luke's account.** How could he not praise Christ for all the wonderful things he did? Bartimaeus got the

dignity of working to support his family instead of begging from strangers to support them.

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. What great comforts can come to a Christian if he calls for help! Some don't get because they don't ask.** And remember, all your comforts in this life come from Christ's Word and his Spirit (touch).

**b. While you are not able to miraculously heal others, regardless of what the charlatans (骗子) say of television, you are to work to meet the needs of those in need.** You can serve everyone, but you can serve some the Lord brings across your path. You can't meet every need the people that come across your path have, but you can meet some of their needs. This is what it means to serve. This is what will make you great. This is what will bring you rewards in heaven.

**c. If you do help someone, however, remember that all the tools you use – wisdom, money, time, effort – are all gifts given from God.** And you received these things because you believe in Jesus Christ. So be careful that you don't take the credit for what the Lord is doing through you.

#### **Conclusion:**

First, learn from Bartimaeus. He had faith in Jesus. He was humble. He prayed from faith. He was persistent. God heard his prayers and he continued to serve God more faithfully. Second, the main point of this passage, **Jesus told his disciples** who wanted to go through life being famous and being served, to serve the ordinary people. **Jesus showed them that to be great they had to learn to serve.** And to serve they had to **seek out the needy** – the one who truly had needs. They had to **sort out their needs so the help could be properly directed.** And they **had to solve the needs by providing good answers.** In doing this, the weak will have their faith strengthened and the weak will praise and serve God better. This will advance the cause of Christ's kingdom.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Be ready to serve the needy, the indigent (贫穷的), the depressed, the overwhelmed, the lonely, the rich, the single, the married, the young, and the old.** Doing this will show your understand what true leadership is. And this will bring great dividends in the coming kingdom!

**2. Doing this is difficult.** You will have to investigate how you may help. You may have to learn how to help. You may have to **ask for help to help others.** But this is serving. No one is zapped with leadership skills.

**3. Serving others is ultimately about the glory of Christ.** Yes, you will be rewarded handsomely, but that is a result of doing good. Remember, you belong to Jesus because

he purchased you by his blood. Serve his purposes.

Finally, Christ calls today to those who are spiritually blind, to those who know they are guilty, to those who are empty, to those who are spiritually hungry, and to those who are spiritually naked. If you respond to Christ and have faith in him, you will receive good comfort and will be pardoned (原谅) of your sin. You will also be well supplied, succored (得到帮助), secured, and clothed. Don't walk away from his blessings.