

**Mark 10:46-52 — "Jesus Mercifully Gives Sight to a Blind Beggar!"**

A life of resolve comes with a price tag. You will be tested by the lure of the world. But you must turn a deaf ear to the crowd and live instead for the approbation of Christ. There will always be a cross before a crown, sacrifice before success, and reproach before a reward. The call of discipleship will cost you popularity, possessions, and position. But God will use your commitment. The grace of God will be multiplied in you if you cultivate a fixed resolution to live for the glory of God. (Steven Lawson)

**Discipleship involves:**

- Knowing who Christ is (Mk 8)
- Trusting what Christ did (Mk 8)
- Beholding the Glory of Christ (Mk 9)
- Surrendering everything & submitting to Christ (Mk 9)
- Willingness to serve others as slaves of Christ (Mk 10)

**THESIS — This story is about a merciful Savior who heals a blind beggar!** But this account highlights *great faith as seen in persistent prayer!*

✓ Faith has made you well! Great faith! Here is a story about **faith**.

✓ It's about faith that saved someone & transformed him. He sat 'by the road' (v.46) and his faith led him to follow Christ on the road (v. 52)

**Great Faith: characteristics:**

Great Trouble [difficult trouble]

Great Travail [divine touch]

Great Travel [disciple transformed]

Characteristics of great faith:

**I. GREAT TROUBLE (difficult trouble) (46-47)****II. GREAT TRAVAIL (divine touch) (48-51)****Importunity includes:**

1. Urgency - I must be heard!
2. Desperation - I won't stop!
3. Importunity - I'm not ashamed!
4. Patience - I'll keep asking!

**What hinders this kind of praying in faith?**

1. Spiritual laziness
2. Lack of watchfulness
3. Love of ease/comfort
4. Little faith

**III. GREAT TRAVEL (disciple transformed) (52)**

- The main, emphatic verb is: "saved you". Faith [in Christ] brought salvation!
  - (1) it is **PROMINENT** - emphatic
  - (2) it is **POSITIONAL** - a state of being/positional/permanent
  - (3) it is **PERFECT** - physical sight and spiritual sight

Bartimaeus was a man of gratitude. Having received his sight, he followed Jesus. He did not selfishly go on his own way when his need was met. He began with need, went on in gratitude, and finished with loyalty — and that's a perfect summary of discipleship (Barclay)

Jesus Christ demands self-denial, that is, self-negation (Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23), as a necessary condition of discipleship. Self-denial is a summons to submit to the authority of God as Father and of Jesus as Lord and to declare lifelong war on one's instinctive egoism. What is to be negated is not personal self or one's existence as a rational and responsible human being. Jesus does not plan to turn us into zombies, nor does he ask us to volunteer for a robot role. The required denial is of carnal self, the egocentric, self-deifying urge with which we were born and which dominates us so ruinously in our natural state. Jesus links self-denial with cross-bearing. Cross-bearing is far more than enduring this or that hardship. Carrying one's cross in Jesus' day, as we learn from the story of Jesus' own crucifixion, was required of those whom society had condemned, whose rights were forfeit, and who were now being led out to their execution. The cross they carried was the instrument of death. Jesus represents discipleship as a matter of following him, and following him as based on taking up one's cross in self-negation. Carnal self would never consent to cast us in such a role. "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die," wrote Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was right: Accepting death to everything that carnal self wants to possess is what Christ's summons to self-denial was all about. (JI Packer)

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### **DISCIPLESHIP explained & applied...**

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” (Matthew 16:24)

- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I will no longer see my time, abilities, money and possessions as mine. I will reckon all I have as God’s.
- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I will budget my time and energy in such a way that I can significantly serve the Lord in His church and invest myself in those who are in bondage to sin.
- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I will be careful not to waste my time on sinful or earthly things, or on things that have no eternal value.
- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I will live within my means and not live extravagantly.
- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I will give faithfully and sacrificially to the Lord’s work in our church and in mission works around the world.
- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I will teach my children, by example and careful instruction, to give their lives wholly to the Lord.
- Since I am called to a life of self-denial and death, I recognize that my greatest joy on earth will be found in fulfilling that calling.

### **Jesus’ disciples sit at His feet to learn and obey His wisdom.**

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.’” (John 8:31)

- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I set myself at His feet each day by prayerfully studying the Scriptures.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I will seek to understand the beauty and wonder of God’s grace as revealed in Scripture; I will ask the Lord to “open my eyes that I may see wonderful things” in His Word.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I will not only listen to Jesus speak through the Word, but will devote myself to heeding His Word and becoming like Him in every area of life. I will keep no part of my life from Him and will indulge in no secret sin.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I resolve to set my family at His feet by means of faithful and meaningful family worship and faithful church attendance and involvement.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I will obey the biblical admonitions to be in the Lord’s House on the Lord’s Day in order to worship Him and be encouraged through the teaching of Scripture. I will devote Sunday to the Lord, to His Church, and to His Word because God established Sunday and local churches to aid in my Christian growth. God designs that my family and I be in His House 52 Sundays a year and apart from significant unforeseen hindrances we will be.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple and no longer a disciple of Satan and the world, I will no longer listen to the world’s voice, seek the world’s approval, or be driven by the world’s philosophies, priorities and passions.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I expect the world’s disapproval, rejection and mistreatment. As Jesus’ disciple I rejoice when I am treated as my Master was treated.

### **Jesus’ disciples love each other and broadcast their commitment to Jesus by means of that love.**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I will foster and express a love for fellow believers that imitates the depth and breadth of Jesus’ love for them.
- Because I am Jesus’ disciple, I will express my love for my brothers and sisters by faithfully praying for them and ministering to them. I will sacrifice my time and resources to care for them.

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- Because I am Jesus' disciple, I will give faithfully to the ministry of our church. By doing so I am expressing love to my Christian brothers and sisters by supporting ministry that is spiritually nourishing to them.
- Because I am Jesus' disciple, I will reach out to other believers in our family in order to know them, understand them, and serve them.
- Because I am Jesus' disciple, I will always seek unity, harmony and intimacy with fellow disciples. I will, therefore, forgive those who sin against me and forbear those with whom I disagree.
- Because I am Jesus' disciple, my communication with believers will always be edifying and spiritually helpful. I will not engage in gossip, slander or unedifying criticism.
- Because I am Jesus' disciple, one of my greatest joys is found in ministry to those for whom He died.

— Paul Tautges

**AMAZING GRACE**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;

He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

**AND CAN IT BE?**

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain—  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above  
So free, so infinite His grace—  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me!  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

So condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?