

Notes

Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus Encounters the Son of David

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 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 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight."⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Intro

It was like every other day in the life of Bartimaeus. He would get a kind neighbor or maybe even a stranger to lead him out to the main road leaving Jericho. And there he would sit next to the roadside and ask people for money as they came and entered the city. He had been doing this for many years, ever since he lost his sight. We don't know how long he had been blind, but it seems he must have been able to see earlier in his life for he asks Jesus in verse 51 that he might "recover" or "regain" his sight.

There are several things about Bart (abbreviation for Bartimaeus) I want us to consider as we work through this passage – we're going to learn about Bart, but also about the man who met him that day.

Verse 46 says:

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

The first thing we learn about Bart is that...

I. He Was a Needy Man

Bart was in need of money. He was blind and he could not work. No work; no eat. There was only one way he could get some money to survive – it was to become a beggar.

We don't know what kind of work Bart used to do before he went blind – maybe he was a carpenter or stone mason or a tanner of animal skins – maybe even a scribe of some sort. But whatever he used to do to earn his living, he could no longer do after he went blind, and so he had to resort to begging for money from travelers going to and from the city. It's different today - people today can still often be employed even with a serious handicap. We used to have a brother in our church in Louisiana who was legally blind, but he was still able to work as an attorney for the legal aid society.

There's another detail about Bart that we know from Mark's account – that he was the son of Timaeus. In fact, that's what his name means: "bar" means "son" so Bartimaeus means "son of Timaeus." The word "Timaeus" in Greek means "honor" or "highly prized," so his name literally meant "son of honor," or maybe "son of a highly prized man." Bart was the son of his father, so he knew something about the father and son relationship. Later that day he would meet another son, one who was called "the Son of David."

Bart had an honorable name, but he was very needy. He needed food and clothes and a place to stay. He had to beg on the streets to try and scrape up the necessities of life and survive.

Maybe you, too, are a needy person today. What are your needs? Are they spiritual, or financial, or health, or relational or emotional needs? Maybe we can learn something today from another needy person, Bart.

But look at the next two verses, v. 47-48:

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 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

We that Bart was not only a needy man but...

II. He was a persistent man

He knew that somehow he had to get Jesus' attention. He had heard the crowd coming; he couldn't see them, but he could hear them. And when he asked what all the commotion was about, someone told him that Jesus of Nazareth and his disciples and a great crowd of people who were following them were moving through the town.

When Bart heard the name "Jesus of Nazareth" his ears perked up and he instantly realized this was his only hope for the healing of his eyes. Jesus was coming; he was coming this way; the Jesus who had been healing so many people up and down the breadth of the land.

"Jesus is coming...Jesus is coming," he thought, "I must get to him. How can I get his attention? I have to see Jesus...." So he began to shout, "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**" The text says he began to cry out, at the top of his lungs his voiced roared over the tops of the heads in the crowd, "**Son of David, have mercy on me!**"

People around him were telling him to shut up. They rebuked him for his loud, desperate, insistent cries. It wasn't just one or two people telling him to be quiet, but the text says in v. 48 that "**many rebuked him and told him to be silent.**"

But did Bart pay attention to them? No, he shouted all the more, he shouted all the louder. It was his only hope. He must get the attention of the Nazarene. He had healed others; maybe he can heal me, too," he thought.

The people told him to "shut up" but it was impossible. This prophet from Nazareth who had worked so many miracles of healing and deliverance was coming toward Bart and would be walking right in front of him. He couldn't let him get away; he had to get his attention. If it was the last thing he did, Bart had to get Jesus' attention.

We see that Bart was a needy man, but he was a persistent man, and now we see that

III. ...he was a believing man.

A. He believed the sacred Scriptures.

B.

He believed in the truth and authority of the sacred writings of the Hebrew people that had been given to them by God. How do we know that? It's because he recognized Jesus' true identity, he recognized who he really was, he recognized that he was more than a carpenter from Nazareth, he recognized that he was indeed the long-promised descendant of King David who had come to rule over the Kingdom of God.

He believed that a descendant of Adam and Eve would crush the serpent's, that is, the devil's head.

He believed that a descendant of Abraham would bless all the nations of the earth.

He believed that a descendant of King David would sit on the restored throne of David and rule in justice and righteousness over all the tribes, peoples and nations of the earth.

He believed that what the prophet Nathan told King David would come to pass:

2 Sam. 7:16

¹⁶ (AD) And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. [c] (AE) Your throne shall be established forever."

Bart believed what the prophet Isaiah had written in Isa. 9:6-7:

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

... [he will sit] on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness...

He believed Psa. 89:34-37

³⁴ I will not violate my (BP)covenant

or alter the word that went forth from my lips..

³⁵ Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;

I will not lie to David.

³⁶ His offspring shall endure forever,

his throne as long as the sun before me.

³⁷ Like the moon it shall be established forever,
a faithful witness in the skies.” *Selah*

He believed **Isa. 35:4-6:**

Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
(H) Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ (L) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ (L) then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy

He believed God would send One anointed with the Holy Spirit, the Messiah, the Christ, to deliver his people from evil and oppression. This coming one would heal the blind and the deaf and the crippled people.

Bart believed this coming kingly descendant of David was Jesus of Nazareth. He was not like many of the scribes and Pharisees and elders of the people who doubted him, who disbelieved him and who tried to destroy him. They were so blinded that they even charged him with casting out demons by the power of Satan.

But though Bart could not see with his physical eyes, he could see with his spiritual eyes. Though he was blind physically he could see far more with his spiritual eyes than the Jewish leadership. Jesus called them “blind guides.” They were spiritually blind and leading other people into spiritual blindness.

But Bart put two and two together and believed and did not doubt. How the OT scriptures described the coming descendant of David and what he would do among the people fit exactly the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Bart did not see Jesus perform all his mighty acts of deliverance and healing and compassion but he listened carefully and took note.

He could not read, but he could listen

In the synagogue services he listened carefully when the OT texts were read describing the coming deliverer of God’s people who would be a descendent of King David. He listened and he remembered and he meditated and he prayed and he was convinced that Jesus of Nazareth had to be the promised Son of David who was to come. This term “Son of David” is the same thing as “Descendant of David.”

And so Jesus of Nazareth had come to his town, to his very road where he sat every day. The Son of David was walking before him and he would not, he could not, let anyone stop him. All these people around him did not understand who Jesus was, but

Bart knew, because Bart believed the Scriptures, and he believed that the great works that Jesus did, he fed 5,000 men and their families with just a few loaves of bread and a few fish, and he calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and he turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee – even one of the very basic elements of the universe was under his authority – Jesus walked on top of the water out to his men in a boat. He had to be the Messiah, he had to be the promised Son of David.

Bart believed the scriptures and he believed that the works of Jesus were true and valid and real. Bart did not doubt but he believed. If no one else in the whole nation believed, he believed and he cried out confessing his belief: **“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

Bart believed. He believed the scriptures. He believed in the works of Jesus. and he believed Jesus could heal his blind eyes.

Bart was a needy man.

Bart was a persistent man.

Bart was a believing man.

Bart was a pleading man.

He was not bashful or reticent or hesitant to present his need to Jesus. But he was bold and persistent and even insistent. He kept shouting at the top of his voice, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.”

Bart was like the parable of the persistent widow who kept bothering the judge with her case and finally he heard her “because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”

What is your need today? Can you be bold and persistent and even insistent that Jesus hear your plea, hear your need? What does Paul say in Phil. 4:6:

“...in everything by prayer and supplication ^(K)with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

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Bart was a persistent man.

Bart was a believing man.

Bart was a pleading man.

V. Bart was a receiving man.

⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”⁵² And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Bart received what he had pleaded for. He believed that this Jesus of Nazareth was the long-promised Son of David – that he could open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf and enable to lame to walk and run again.

Bart had faith in the Son of David and Jesus granted him his request. Bart pleaded for the mercy of God and Jesus was merciful.

What is your need today? We have a **merciful** and faithful **high priest** in the service of God (Heb. 2:17). Present your desperate need to him and plead for his mercy. He does not expect us to do any less. Jesus is a great King, he is the promised descendant of David, and his arm is not short; his power is not abated.

Bart was a needy man.

Bart was a persistent man.

Bart was a believing man.

Bart was a pleading man.

Bart was a receiving man.

VI. Bart was a following man.

v. 52: .” **And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.**

Bart did not just say ‘thank you’ to Jesus and then go on his merry way to live some kind of life absent from the fellowship and superintendence of the Lord Jesus. But he followed him. He continued to listen to his teachings and observe his miracles of healing and deliverance. We don’t know whether he followed him all the way to Jerusalem to the place of his crucifixion and resurrection. But the fact that he followed him shows us that he had become a disciple of Jesus, a devoted learner and worshipper.

Yes, the physical healing of his eyes was crucial to his life, but even more important was the fact that Bart believed wholeheartedly that David’s greater Son, the promised King who would sit on his throne. He was Yahweh who had taken on our human nature and worthy to be followed and adored in humble submission with joy.

Bart was a needy man.

Bart was a persistent man.

Bart was a believing man.

Bart was a pleading man.

Bart was a receiving man.

Bart was a following man.

His immediate recognition that Jesus was the Son of David was also recognized by the writers of the NT:

A. From the genealogies in Matthew and Luke
Mat. 1:6-17

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,^[a] ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,^[b]⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,^[c] and Amos the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,^[d] and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Lu. 3:23-31

²³ Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, ²⁵ the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, ²⁷ the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel,^[a] the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, ³⁰ the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David

Matt. 1:20

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Lu. 1:27

²⁷ to a virgin betrothed^[a] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Matt. 2:4-6

and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

B. From the Lukan report of Gabriel’s message to Mary:

Lu. 1:32-3

² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

C. From Zechariah’s Benedictus

Lu. 1:68-70

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

D. From Peter’s first Sermon

Acts 2:29-32

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

E. from Paul’s letters

Rom. 1:1-4

Paul, a servant^[a] of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David^[b] according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

2 Tim. 2:8-9

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

F. From John’ Revelation

Rv. 22:16 - ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Jewish people in Jesus' day understood that the Messiah would be a descendant of David.

In order not to stir up improper conceptions of the Messiah's ministry, Jesus did not openly declare that he was the Messianic descendant of David but he never denied but always accept that ascription when it was ascribed to him.

1. Blind Bartimaeus
2. The Canaanite woman whose daughter was demonized.

Matt. 15:22 -

And behold, a **Canaanite woman** from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."

3. The crowds on Palm Sunday

Jesus, in fact, declared that if they were silent the stones would cry out.

Summary:

- A. OT promises fulfilled
- B. Jesus is the prophesied King
- C. All the other promises of Christ will be fulfilled.
- D. Let's learn from Bart:

Bart was a needy man.

Bart was a persistent man.

Bart was a believing man.

A Confessing man.

Bart was a pleading man.

Bart was a receiving man.

He was a following man.

By Pastor Jeff Gregory
Good Shepherd Community Church
Dallas, TX 75228

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