

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

1ST GRADE

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 19

Blind Bartimaeus



Blind Bartimaeus

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will look at Bartimaeus' faith in who Jesus was as a model for our faith.

Key Verses

Mark 10:46-52—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43 (Parallel Passages)

2 Samuel 7

Memory Verse - John 20:29b

"Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Have a volunteer sit in the front of the class blindfolded. Tell some students or teachers to walk by silently and have the student guess who has just walked by. Ask them if they would believe you if you told them the president or a famous person walked by while their eyes were closed.

In today's story, Jesus is going to walk by a blind man. However, even though this man can't see Jesus, he will believe that Jesus is someone important.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

On His journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Jericho. As He left, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting on the roadside and heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by (in Matthew, we find out that he had a fellow blind man with him). Upon hearing this news, he cried out to Jesus and said, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The crowd rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus was persistent and cried out even louder.

Once Jesus heard, He called for the blind man. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was calling him, he threw off his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Naturally, his response was to ask for his sight back. Jesus told him to go his way, for his faith had made him well. The story ends by telling us that Bartimaeus received his sight and continued to follow Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. Matthew tells us that the other blind man was healed as well, and that they both followed Jesus.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

On the surface, this story might seem like yet another account of Jesus performing a miraculous healing. However, notice the name that the crowd calls Jesus compared to what Bartimaeus says. The crowd told Bartimaeus that Jesus of Nazareth was walking by (Luke's account tells us that it was someone in the crowd who told Bartimaeus this). To the crowd, Jesus was just a man from Nazareth. He was an extraordinary man, but not much more. However, when Bartimaeus heard this news, he calls Jesus the Son of David.

Bartimaeus was not just making a comment on Jesus' lineage. He was declaring that Jesus was the promised Messiah and King of Israel. In our Old Testament series, when we studied the life of David, we saw that in 2 Samuel 7, God made a promise to David that his family would sit on Israel's throne forever. Specifically, God promised David a future King in his family who would set up a kingdom and an everlasting rule. When Bartimaeus called Jesus the Son of David, what he was really saying is that he believed Jesus was that King God promised to David years ago. It was more than just an address, it was an expression of great faith.

LOOK (Continued)

When we look at the difference between Bartimaeus' confession and that of the crowd, we see that a blind man was more able to see Jesus for who He was than the seeing crowd. The crowd trusted what they could see, and that was an ordinary man doing extraordinary things. To them, He was just Jesus of Nazareth. But Bartimaeus saw the truth, that Jesus was God's promised King. He may not have looked like a king. He didn't have a palace, wealth, or an army of soldiers behind Him. Yet Bartimaeus knew the truth, and Jesus commended him for this faith.

Today we actually have a similar situation to Bartimaeus and the crowd. We cannot see Jesus for who He truly is, just like they couldn't. They couldn't see Jesus as King because He was not an earthly king. For us, the problem is that He is not bodily present on earth anymore. However, like Bartimaeus, we can still exercise faith to believe that Jesus is our God and King, even though we don't see Him walking around or ruling on His throne. Faith means putting your trust in something or someone you can't see. Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was King even though he couldn't see it. Will you believe in what you cannot see? Will you believe that Jesus is the King?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize John 20:29

Review the lesson by asking the class who the crowd thought Jesus was. Who did Bartimaeus think Jesus was?

Pray: Worship Jesus as God's promised Messiah and King. Ask Him for faith to trust in the truth of His Word, even if we can't see the truth with our eyes.

Parent Question: Why did Bartimaeus call Jesus "Son of David"?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Mark 10:46-52 by David Guzik

4. ([Mark 10:46-52](#)) On the way to Jerusalem, a blind man is healed.

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 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!" Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 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." And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. 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." 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.

a. **He cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"** Blind Bartimaeus didn't have much tact, but he did have persistence and determination. People tried to shut him up, but they couldn't because he really wanted a touch from Jesus.

i. The persistent and energetic nature of Bartimaeus' prayer is a good example of prayer. He wasn't discouraged because no one led him to Jesus. Those who told him to stay away did not discourage him.

ii. "Take the gates of heaven and shake them with thy vehemence, as though thou wouldst pull them up post and bar and all. Stand at Mercy's door, and take no denial. Knock, and knock, and knock again, as though thou wouldst shake the very spheres, but what thou wouldst obtain an answer to thy cries. 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.' Cold prayers never win God's ear. Draw thy bow with thy full strength, if thou wouldst send thy arrow up so high as heaven." (Spurgeon)

b. **Have mercy on me!** The blind man knew what he needed from Jesus — **mercy**. He didn't come thinking that God owed him. All he wanted from Jesus was mercy.

c. **What do you want Me to do for you?** It might seem that the need of Bartimaeus was obvious. Yet Jesus had a deliberate purpose in the question. There was real power in both the asking and in the answer of Jesus. God may ask us the same question, and we should be able to articulate an answer that glorifies Him.

d. **Rabboni, that I may receive my sight:** The title **Rabboni** "is a strengthened form of 'Rabbi,' and means 'my lord,' 'my master.'" (Lane) When Bartimaeus said this, he expressed his humble submission towards Jesus.

i. The specific nature of Bartimaeus' request is a good example for our prayers. "**Have mercy on me**" is general, but his prayer moved from the general to the specific request, "**that I may receive my sight.**"

ii. "Rest assured that those are the best prayers in all respects, if they be earnest and sincere, which go most directly to the point. You know there is a way of praying in the closet, and praying in the family, in which you do not ask for anything. You say a great many good things, introduce much of your own experience, review the doctrines of grace very thoughtfully, but you do not ask for anything in particular. Such prayer is always uninteresting to listen to, and I think it must be rather tedious to those who offer it." (Spurgeon)

e. **Go your way; your faith has made you well:** The **faith** of the blind man saved him because it was a specific kind of faith.

• It was faith that was determined to reach Jesus (**he cried out all the more**).

- It was faith that knew who Jesus was (**Son of David**).
- It was faith that came humbly to Jesus (**have mercy on me**).
- It was faith that humbly submitted to Jesus (**Rabboni**).
- It was faith that could tell Jesus what it wanted (**that I may receive my sight**).

f. **Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus**: Now healed and saved, blind Bartimaeus then **followed Jesus**. The way of Jesus became his way. This was especially significant when we consider where Jesus was going at this time — to Jerusalem where a cross waited for Him.

i. First Jesus told Bartimaeus, **go your way**. Then, Bartimaeus **followed Jesus**. He made Jesus' way his own way, and was a follower of Him. Bartimaeus must have figured, "Now that I have my sight, I always want to look upon Jesus."

ii. "Apply to the Son of David; lose not a moment; he is *passing by*, and thou art *passing* into *eternity*, and probably wilt never have a more favourable opportunity than the present." (Clarke)