

Do Not Pass Me By!

The Gospel story of blind Bartimaeus helps us reflect on one man's walk toward faith. Bartimaeus, born blind, spent his time begging by the roadside. Then he hears that Jesus, the Healer, is going to pass by. He begins to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Those around him try to stifle him but he calls out all the louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Do you remember a time in your life when you called out to Jesus, in your pain, in your distress, in your confusion? Somehow, in that vast crowd, Bartimaeus got Jesus' attention...his voice rang out above the muttering crowd. Did Jesus hear your plea? Bartimaeus pawed his way through the crowd to the feet of Jesus. Did Jesus stop and call you forth as He did with Bartimaeus?

The blind man had withstood the ridicule of those nearby who had to listen to him cry out his pity-plea over and over—louder and louder. And when he was told that Jesus was calling him, he threw aside and abandoned his only possession—the cloak on which he had daily planted himself to do his begging. Then, he stumbled and fumbled his way, pushing through the crowd to reach Jesus. *What would you do to seek the Healer, to follow a calling?*

When Jesus saw this desperate blind man bust through the crowd to meet Him face-to-face, Jesus simply asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus earnestly pleaded with Jesus, "Master, I want to see." The most important thing—he believed fully that Jesus could heal him. *In your plea to our Lord, did you believe Jesus would come to your aid and rescue you, as this blind man did?*

Jesus saw before him the most hopeful and yearning and BELIEVING member of the entire crowd that surrounded him—and said, "Go your way, your faith has saved you." And immediately blind Bartimaeus was blind no more! His determination and stamina had paid off, and the Healer healed him! *So, when YOU cried out to Jesus, did you fervently believe that Jesus could touch your heart, your mind, your soul and heal you? Did you express the faith of the blind man who was no longer a beggar but a follower of the One who saves?*

In healing blind Bartimaeus, most likely, Jesus wanted to point out to the entire throng of people gathered to SEE FAITH IN ACTION! He wanted them all to take off their blinders and not see Bartimaeus as the poor beggar at the side of the road but a man who built his faith on a calling—a calling from Jesus to help him see. And the first thing he saw was the face of Jesus. What could be more wonderful?!

Are you willing to let Jesus call you to spring up and leave behind your cloak—your blindness—your place by the side of the road that you have placed yourself down to beg? For, no longer do you need to beg! Jesus is here, just waiting for you to cry out and catch His attention. Remember what Jesus said to Bartimaeus?...“Go your way; your faith has saved you.” He didn’t say, “I have saved you” ...but YOUR FAITH has saved you. In believing he would be cured, Bartimaeus’ own faith was the curing balm, the life-changing agent. Jesus allowed the believer to believe himself into a world of sight!

So, what about you and your calling out to the Lord? Do you really want to see? Jesus shows that the ball is in your court; the healing is in your hands; the faith you extend for all to see will change your life—AND the crowd around you may just have THEIR blinders removed too. Listen, and you can hear the Gospel song calling out Bartimaeus’ plea—

“When on others Thou art calling...Do not pass me by!!”

by Rich Melcher