

Blind Bartimaeus

(Mark 10:46-52)

Introduction

[Teacher, ask children to close their eyes. After discussing what they see (darkness), have them open their eyes.] Have you ever thought what it would be like not to be able to see — to be in darkness all the time?

Today our Bible lesson is about a man named Bartimaeus. He could not see anything. To him the world was always darker than the darkest night, for he was blind! There was no hope that Bartimaeus would ever see, until one day...

Opening Prayer

Father, open the eyes of our hearts this morning, I pray, so that we might see Your wonderful ways. We want to fall more in love with You, dear Lord, so that nothing else matters to us as much as You do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memory Verse

Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm 119:18)

Lesson

In the later years of His ministry, Jesus and his disciples spent a lot of time down in the area called Judea. One day they were leaving the city of Jericho to go up to Jerusalem, when they met a blind man named Bartimaeus.

Mark 10:46

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road.

Because Bartimaeus was blind, he wasn't able to have a job. Everyday Bartimaeus had to sit along the side of a road and beg for food, much like the homeless people we see along the side of the road today.

Bartimaeus was in total darkness because he could not see with his eyes. But he had a much greater problem. Bartimaeus had darkness in his heart because of sin. You and I are also born with sinful hearts. God says that living in sin is like being in darkness because we are apart from Him and cannot find our way to Him; sin has blinded us from seeing the truth about ourselves and about God. (1 Corinthians 2:14, *The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*)

What is sin? Sin is anything that does not please God. God's Word says that the wrong things people do cause them to love darkness rather than light (John 3:19, *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*).

Have you ever noticed that when people do things they know are wrong, they try to hide them, or do them secretly. Have you ever tried to hide one of your sins? For example, have you ever hidden something you broke so no one will find out? Or, have you ever said it wasn't you that did something naughty, when it really was? You were trying to hide one of your sins.

God says that all sin must be punished; the punishment is to be forever separated from God in a place of darkness. Without the Lord Jesus you are in the darkness of sin. It is a much greater problem than being in darkness like blind Bartimaeus.

Mark 10:47

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

The Jews had been waiting for the coming Messiah and they knew that he would be from the family line of David. So, by calling out, “*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me,*” it is evident that Bartimaeus recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah. No doubt Bartimaeus had heard reports that Jesus restored sight and desperately wanted to be healed.

Mark 10:48-49

“Be quiet!” many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” (49) When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, “Tell him to come here.” So they called the blind man. “Cheer up,” they said. “Come on, he’s calling you!”

Jesus knew Bartimaeus was there, in that great crowd of people, needing His help. And Jesus knows what you need, too.

He made each one of us. He knows all about you — the color of your eyes and if you’re short or tall. He also knows about your sinful heart; nothing is hidden from Him because Jesus is God. He loves you just as much as He loved Bartimaeus.

At first the crowd tried to make Bartimaeus be quiet, but he called out all the louder! Then, when Jesus called for Bartimaeus, the crowd encouraged him by telling him to be brave and get up and go to Jesus.

Mark 10:50

Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

Bartimaeus jumped up, threw his cloak aside, and came to Jesus. Even though he was blind, Bartimaeus went right to Jesus.

Mark 10:51

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. “My Rabbi,” the blind man said, “I want to see!”

Jesus was the only One who had the power to give Bartimaeus his eyesight. But more than that He was the only One who could take away the darkness of sin in Bartimaeus’s heart.

Just a few days after passing through Jericho, the Lord Jesus would die on the cross, taking the punishment for the sins of the whole world. You and I know today that Jesus died for our sins, giving His precious blood. Jesus didn’t deserve to die because He had no sin at all. The Bible says that by dying, the Lord “*delivered us from the power of darkness...through His blood*” (Colossians 1:13, 14). Jesus died and was buried, but He came alive again. He lives today to take the darkness of sin from your heart. All you must do is to call on Him to forgive you. Jesus wanted to take away the darkness of sin from Bartimaeus’s heart; He was the only One with the power to give Bartimaeus his eyesight.

Bartimaeus called Jesus “Rabbi.” That means “*My Great One*” or “*My Lord, my Master.*” That shows that Bartimaeus had faith. He was confident in Jesus’ ability to heal his blindness and give him the gift of sight.

Mark 10:52

And Jesus said to him, “Go, for your faith has healed you.” Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

The Lord saw the faith in the heart of Bartimaeus. Because he believed, Bartimaeus was not only healed from physical darkness; he was delivered from spiritual darkness as well. He was saved. Bartimaeus was saved both from his blindness and from the darkness of sin.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for taking away the darkness of our sin. We praise you for giving our eyes spiritual light so that we may see the path to eternal life with You in Heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Who did Jesus and His disciples meet along the road from Jericho to Jerusalem? (Bartimaeus.)
2. What was wrong with Bartimaeus? (He was blind)
3. In what two ways was Bartimaeus in total darkness? (He was physically blind and He was spiritually blind.)
4. What was Bartimaeus' greater problem: the fact that he could not see with his eyes or the fact that he had darkness in his heart because of sin? (Darkness in his heart was a much greater problem.)
5. Why does God say that living in sin is like being in darkness? (Because when we are in sin, we are separated from Jesus, the Light of the World. Jesus gives us spiritual insight to the things of God.)
6. What does the Bible mean when it says the wrong things people do cause them to love darkness rather than light? (Sinners want to hide their wrong doings.)

7. Why did Bartimaeus call Jesus, the Son of David? (The Israelites knew that the Messiah would be from the family line of David.)
8. How did he learn about Jesus if he couldn't see him? (By listening.)
9. Did he believe that Jesus could help him to see? (Yes)
10. How did Jesus know that Bartimaeus needed help? (Bartimaeus asked for help)
11. In what two ways did Jesus heal Bartimaeus? (Physically and spiritually.)
12. What did Bartimaeus do after Jesus healed him? (He followed Jesus on the road to Jerusalem.)

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