

"Believing Jesus" Warrington

5/5/63

A.M.

Scripture Lesson: - Mark 10: 46 - 52.

Text: - Mark 10: 51.

Introduction: - Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude was following them. At the side of the road, just beyond the city, a blind man was sitting.

In those days there was nothing much that a blind man could do, to help himself, except to ask alms of the passers by. Poor Bartimaeus - a blind man begging for a living. In those days, before our modern institutions for the blind, without all of their methods of training a blind man was in a pitiable condition.

Sitting there by the roadside, he heard sounds of the approaching multitude. If you had been Bartimaeus, what would you have done? He thought it was Jesus of Nazareth. So he raised his voice and shouted, "Jesus of Nazareth. He felt that this was an opportunity that might never come again.

Many of you have read Ben Hur. In one place it tells of a group of lepers, living among the rocks, far from other people. Suddenly they hear a crowd of people approaching along the road. One of the lepers runs out to see what it is. He returns to the group shouting, "Jesus of Nazareth passeth by". The lepers has heard of the healing power of Jesus and they hurried to the roadside to be cleansed. They were cleansed and their faces became as fair as the faces of

little children, and how they praised God for his goodness.

Why were they healed? Because they believed in Jesus and because they came to him.

Barnabas had heard about Jesus. Even a blind man in those days would have known of the wonderful healing power of Jesus. Perhaps he had often thought that Jesus might some day pass along this Jericho road, and now, today, was actually here. So he began to cry out, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." That cry came right from his heart. He believed in the power of Jesus. He believed that Jesus would help him. So, his cry was a real prayer.

You have heard about Jesus all of your life. You know a good deal about him; you learned about him at home and at Sunday school and in the church service. How is it with you today? Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe he is the Son of God? Do you believe in his power to save you and help you? Have you called to him for help? Have you asked him for help, the kind of help you most needed? WE must call upon him for help if we believe in his power.

I.

When Bartimaeus called out to Jesus for help a marvellous thing happened. Even above the noise of the crowd Jesus heard that prayer, that cry for mercy. He heard it and stood still.

Those are significant words in our Scripture lesson, "Jesus stood still." He stopped where he was. He postponed all his plans for the day and all of his work in the other towns and villages,

because he had heard the cry for help from the heart of a man, who believed on him.

It is the same today, except that he is not here in person. God is busy everywhere today in this vast universe, but he will hear the cry for help from any of his children. Almighty God is personally interested in each one of us, and wants to help us. Is your heart burdened; is your load too heavy to bear; have you troubles and worries? He knows and cares.

Those nearest to Bartimaeus tried to quiet him and probably said, "O be quiet. Don't take on so. It won't do any good. Jesus won't stop for a blind man, for a beggar such as you are!"

But Bartimaeus was a man of faith in Jesus Christ. The Scripture says "he cried out the more a great deal", "Thou Son of David have mercy on me." If your first prayer does not seem to be answered, keep on praying. Keep on calling upon God. Do not give up and say, "there is no use." God wants to help you but you must cry out to him, believing that he has the power to help you

II.

The cry of the blind man was heard. Jesus heard the ring of belief in that voice. He always does. It said to Jesus, "they are telling me that is no use, that you won't help me, but I believe you will!"

Jesus then said to his disciples, "Call him!" Jesus always uses others to help him.

So they came to Bartimaeus saying, "Be of good cheer; rise, he calleth thee." It had work

ed; Jesus had heard his cry; he was calling to him to come".

Those with him could no longer hold him back any longer. He was on his feet going to Jesus. Hope and belief had led him to his recovery. Something was really going to happen in his life now. The Scripture says, "Casting away his garments he sprang up and came to Jesus." He did not stop to argue, and say, "well I am not sure there is anything in it. I am afraid that I cannot hold out; there are so many that profess and have not got the goods. No, he sprang up and came at once without delay.

That is a picture of a man coming to Jesus, casting aside everything that hindered him, every besetting sin in his life, giving up the old life and the old crowd, the old habits, and going in just one direction to Jesus. Have you done that in your life?

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III. Bartimaeus could not see, but he found his way to Jesus. When he was close to Jesus he stopped. Now the scene was all set for a mighty miracle of healing. Some persons say they do not believe in miracles. Perhaps that is because a miracle has never taken place in their own lives.

Here was Jesus, the Son of God, with the power of God, the Creator of this marvellous universe. Standing there was Bartimaeus, who had called to Jesus for help, who believed in Jesus. What happened? Jesus knew just what Bartimaeus needed but nevertheless, he asked the blind man a question. "What wilt thou that I shall do for thee?"

If you could stand before Jesus, this very minute

face to face with the Son of God, with whom all things are possible, and he asked you that question, what would your answer be? What is the one thing above all others that you want? What would your answer be? What is the one thing in your life, above all others, that you want to happen in your life today, THROUGH THE power of God?

Of course a blind man would want to see. So he answered, "that I may see." Do you know what you most need today? Could you express it in just six words? I beg of you to do so. Do so this very day in your own heart and life, and let God fill your life with a new happiness and power.

Conclusion:- Just think, that the eyes of Bartimaeus were opened, and he stood looking into the eyes of Jesus Christ, with all of their sympathy and love. The sight of that face, the face of Jesus Christ, that would inspire his whole life.

If it were you, could you go back to your old way of living? We read in the Scriptures, "Bartimaeus followed him in the way." His love and gratitude led him on day after day. Yes, Bartimaeus was helped, and you can be helped. He believed. How about you? Do you believe? Have you come to Jesus?

Have you told him just what you need? He wants to do that very thing for you, give you what you need most. He is a Savior, a friend and the Lord of our lives. He will help you. He will give you spiritual sight. He will listen when you call.

Nothing is impossible to him and for him. Do you need him now? Would you follow him all the way. May God give to you this blessed experience.