

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:46-52

Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.
—Corrie ten Boom, in *Jesus Is Victor*

The story of blind Bartimaeus is one of the most well-known of Jesus' miracles. Perhaps it was because there was one sense in which Bartimaeus could see — *really see*. He “saw” that Jesus was able to perform the impossible when all else had failed.

So when Jesus asked him what he wanted, he was quick to reply, “Let me see again” (v. 51).

In response to Bartimaeus' plea, Jesus declares, “Go; your faith has made you well” (v. 52). Wonder of wonders! Bartimaeus receives his sight and “followed Jesus on the way.” His physical sight is restored, but more importantly, his spiritual sight is awakened. And this was due, according to Jesus, to what his heart — without the use of his eyes — could see. This ability to see without the use of our senses is called *faith*.

What happened?

Faith is like a lens, and although Bartimaeus' *physical* lens was in some way defective, his *spiritual* lens was as clear as a spring day. The lens of faith is critical for our spiritual health. We need faith for salvation; in order to receive anything from the Lord, we must ask in faith; and we know that without faith we can't please God.

In fact, whatever is good and necessary for Christian living comes from God through faith.

Bartimaeus was in possession of that special lens — the lens described in Hebrews 11: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

This faith-lens of desperate hope and the conviction of the reality of unseen things empowered Bartimaeus to cast off his robes — anything that hindered him — and rush toward Jesus. Likewise, this same faith-lens helps us to see clearly and to grab the opportunities that come to us from God through Jesus Christ.

So, Jesus commends Bartimaeus for his faith, emphasizing the connection between faith and restoration and illustrating that true faith has the power to restore our spiritual sight, allowing us to see Christ for who he truly is — the Son of God and the source of mercy and salvation.

To sum up, perhaps Bartimaeus models for us the way we might deepen our relationship with God. This unfortunate beggar, blind for so many years, challenges us to examine our own hearts. Are we willing to recognize our spiritual blindness, approach Jesus with a desperate cry for mercy, persist in faith despite obstacles, and trust in his power to restore our sight?

— Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, open the eyes of my heart, that I may see. In your name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 19:11-41,

2 Corinthians 1-3

Monday: Ezra 5-7

Tuesday: Ezra 8-10

Wednesday: Nehemiah 1-3

Thursday: Nehemiah 4-6

Friday: Nehemiah 7-9

Saturday: Psalms 120-124

Verse to Remember

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?*

*My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

—Psalm 121:1-2



“C” IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!

All correct answers begin with the letter C. Circle the correct answer.

1. What was Nehemiah’s occupation? centurion, cook, carpenter, cupbearer
2. Who was the Bible’s first murderer? Caleb, Cain, Caiaphas, Cush
3. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? Caesarea, Capernaum, Cana
4. Which of these books contains the great chapter about love? 2 Chronicles, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, 2 Corinthians
5. A man named Simon was forced to carry the cross to Golgotha for Jesus. Where was he from? Cyrene, Caesarea, Cush, Chicago
6. Which of these “C” words has nothing to with the crucifixion of Jesus? crown, cross, Calvary, cypress

ON THE RECORD!

Who made the following statements as read in the Bible? Circle the correct answer.

1. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto you.” Peter, James, John, Paul
3. “What is truth?” Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. “Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!” Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. “Almost you persuade me to become a Christian.” Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. “Entreat me not to leave you for your people will be my people. Where you lodge, I will lodge.” Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. “I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith.” Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

ANSWERS TO “C” IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!: 1. cupbearer; 2. Cain; 3. Cana; 4. 1 Corinthians; 5. Cyrene; 6. cypress.
ANSWERS TO “ON THE RECORD!: 1. Cain; 2. Peter; 3. Pilate; 4. Joshua; 5. Peter; 6. Herod Agrippa; 7. Ruth; 8. Paul.