

THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT!

Mark 10:46-52 Text vs. 52 *“Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’”*

Today, we have a powerful story from the Gospel of Mark that tells of the miraculous healing by Jesus of a blind man named Bartimaeus. The story is not just about physical healing. It's also about faith, persistence, and the healing power of Jesus. Here it is: *“Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means ‘son of Timaeus’), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’ So, they called to the blind man, ‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.’ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked him. The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’ ‘Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.”* (Mark 10:46-52, NIV)

The main thing for you to understand is that Bartimaeus, despite his blindness, recognized Jesus as the “Son of David.” The title “Messiah” comes from the Hebrew word “māšīaḥ,” which means “anointed one” or “chosen one”. The Hebrew Bible refers to a future Jewish king from the line of David who was expected to be anointed with holy anointing oil and rule the Jewish people during the Messianic Age. In Christianity, “Messiah” is Jesus Christ, who is believed to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies of a Savior and Deliverer. Christians believe that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection were the fulfillment of those messianic prophecies, and that He will return in a Second Coming to complete the remaining prophecies. The Book of Revelation 20:2-3 gives an image of a 1000-year period in which Satan is to be bound so that he cannot influence those living on the Earth, and Jesus Christ will reign on the Earth with resurrected saints. After that, Satan will be defeated once and for all and the Earth and heaven will pass away, and people will face judgment by Jesus Christ to determine whether or not they will enter the new heaven and earth that will be established. (Revelation 21)

Now in our lesson today Bartimeus had heard of Jesus and his miracles. And upon learning that Jesus was passing by, he hoped to recover his eyesight. And you should realize, when you come to Jesus for help and healing, He *is* the promised Messiah. And just as Jesus stopped and said, *“Call him”* He also calls you to come to Him. He encourages you that if you come to Him, you will receive what you come for. If you come to Jesus, you must get rid of your dependence on your own self- sufficiency, and free yourself from every weight and sin that, like long garments, easily weigh you down. (Hebrews 12:1)

Bartimeus begged Jesus that his eyes might be opened. Then he would be able to earn his own bread. And where God has given us arms, legs, and senses, it’s a shame that with foolishness and laziness some people make themselves, in effect, blind and lame. But Bartimeus’ eyes were opened when Jesus said, *“Your faith has made you whole.”* It’s faith in Jesus as the Son of David that brings your faith to life. Be encouraged to imitate blind Bartimeus. When the Gospel is preached, or the written words of truth spread that Jesus is passing by, that’s your opportunity. It’s not enough to come to Jesus for spiritual healing. Because when you are healed, you must continue to follow Him. Honor Him. And receive instruction from Him. Those who have that spiritual eyesight will see the benefit in Jesus which will have them run after Him.

Bartimeus’ cry for mercy was a profound act of faith. He believed Jesus had the power to heal him. But How often have you called to Jesus for help in your times of need? Have you recognized His power and authority in your life? The crowd had tried to silence Bartimaeus. But he persisted! His determination to reach Jesus, despite the obstacles, is a lesson for all of us. In our spiritual journey, we may face discouragement and opposition. But we must remain steadfast in our faith and continue to seek Jesus. So, Jesus stopped. And He called Bartimaeus over to Him. This act of stopping while in the crowd shows Jesus’ compassion and willingness to respond to those who earnestly seek Him. Jesus asked Bartimaeus, *“What do you want me to do for you?”* That question let Bartimaeus express his need and faith openly. *“Rabbi, I want to see.”* That’s a simple and intense declaration of faith. Jesus acknowledged his faith and healed him, saying, *“Go, your faith has healed you.”*

Faith is a powerful force that can bring about change and healing in our lives. And then after receiving his sight, Bartimaeus followed Jesus along the road. His immediate response to follow Jesus shows a life transformed by meeting with Jesus. When you experience Jesus’ healing and grace, your natural response should be to follow Him and live out your faith. Imagine you work in a busy office environment. One of your colleagues, Sarah, has been struggling with a heavy workload and personal issues at home. She often looks stressed and overwhelmed. You notice Sarah’s struggles and decide to reach out. You offer to help her with some of her tasks, even if it means staying a bit later at work. This act of kindness reflects Jesus’ teaching to love and serve others. You take the time to listen to Sarah without judgment. Sometimes, just being there for someone and offering a compassionate ear can make a significant difference. This mirrors Jesus’ empathy and understanding towards those in need. You pray for Sarah, asking God to give her strength and peace. If she is open to it, you might even pray with her, offering

spiritual support and encouragement. And when the opportunity arises, you share how your faith in Jesus helps you navigate life's challenges. You talk about the hope and peace you find in your relationship with Him, providing a testimony of how faith can be a source of strength. You continue to show kindness and support to Sarah, not just once, but consistently. This ongoing support demonstrates the enduring love and faithfulness that Jesus shows to us.

Living out your faith in Jesus is about embodying His teachings in your daily actions. It's about showing love, compassion, and kindness to those around you, just as Jesus did. Whether through small acts of service, offering a listening ear, or sharing your faith, you can make a meaningful impact on others' lives. The story of Bartimaeus is a testament to the power of faith and the compassion of Jesus. It encourages us to cry out to Jesus in our times of need, to persist in our faith despite obstacles, and to trust in His power to heal and transform our lives.

Helen Keller's life story is a powerful testament to the strong human spirit. Despite being blind and deaf, she refused to be defined by her disabilities. Through sheer determination and persistence, Keller learned to communicate and became an influential author, educator, and activist. Her autobiography, *"The Story of My Life,"* offers a glimpse into her remarkable journey from isolation to liberation. Keller's accomplishments, including graduating from Radcliffe College and establishing a charitable organization, continue to inspire countless individuals facing their own challenges today. The only thing worse than being blind is having sight, but no vision. Let us be like Bartimaeus, unwavering in our faith and eager to follow Jesus and being a living testimony of how faith can be a source of strength.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the story of Bartimaeus and the lessons it teaches us about faith, persistence, and Your boundless compassion. Help us to come to You in our times of need, to remain steadfast in our faith, and to trust in Your power to heal and transform our lives. May we follow You faithfully, just as did Bartimaeus. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.