

Mark 10:46-52 <Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight>

⁴⁶ 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. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

"Not A Fan" by Kyle Idleman

- Through this book, we can differentiate fan vs. disciple.
- A person with passion can be defined as a fan. A person who puts their passion to action can be defined as a disciple.
- In today's scripture, Bartimaeus had passion and took his passion into action.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

- The most important verse of this book is above verse.
- The timeline of this verse is few days before the death of Jesus Christ.
- Through His death, we can see those who were *fan* and those who were true *disciple*.

Mark 10:46

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.

- During this period, people viewed blind people as sinners.
- Imagine the fear Bartimaeus lived day by day along the roadside. But most of all, the fact that people viewed him as a sinner, may have put more fear into his life.

Mark 10:47

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

- Bartimaeus learns about Jesus Christ passing the road.
- He shouts to Jesus Christ as Son of David. This is same as calling Jesus as his Messiah.
- He shouts to the Messiah to have mercy on him out loud. He is revealing himself to Jesus and he is asking Jesus to think of him even when no one is looking at him.

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- This verse tells us that we need Jesus and without Jesus we are nothing.

Mark 10:48

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

- Many are telling Bartimaeus to be quiet because he is not important.
- What would you do in this situation?
- Bartimaeus did not listen to them and he went on shouting to Jesus...since he knew he is nothing without Jesus Christ.
- As we read this verse, we need to ask ourselves who is the blind?

Mark 10:49

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

- Jesus hears Bartimaeus while the disciples try to make him be quiet.
- If Bartimaeus was not blind...if he was rich and powerful, would they have made him be quiet?
- The Heaven above is for everyone and Jesus Christ is showing this through this verse.

Peter Singer is an Australian moral philosopher, currently the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. He specializes in applied ethics and approaches ethical issues from a secular, utilitarian perspective. He is known in particular for his book *Animal Liberation*.

- In this book, Singer states that health animal is more valuable than disabled human being. If you son or daughter was disabled, will you agree with this professor?
- However, if you think more, we do treat those with less power differently than those with power.
- Jesus Christ is showing us through today's scripture that everyone is equal. Even with flaws, we are still loved by Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:5

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

- So we must learn from today's scripture and learn from Jesus' action towards Bartimaeus.

Mark 10:51

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

- Jesus stops and asks Bartimaeus and asks him what can he do? Answer may be obvious but Jesus still asks.
- Bartimaeus shows his true heart and his true needs. The reason for his sight is shown on next verse.

Mark 10:52

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

- Bartimaeus wanted to see so that he can follow along with the road with Jesus Christ.
- If Jesus asked the same question, what would we say?
- Bartimaeus' faith healed him. His faith had following:
 - ✓ *Dependence of Faith*
 - ✓ *Personality of Faith*
 - ✓ *Activeness of Faith*
- We need the same faith as Bartimaeus...faith where God is at the center, faith where we pray for others and the church, and faith where we truly act and reach out to Jesus Christ.
- So what shall we do now? We need to follow along the roadside. We need to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We need to come and die like Jesus Christ.

William Whiting Borden (November 1, 1887 – April 9, 1913) was a philanthropist and millionaire Christian missionary candidate who died in Egypt before reaching his chosen field, Gansu province in China.

- Borden was born into a prominent and wealthy Chicago family, the third child of William and Mary DeGarmo Whiting Borden. After his mother converted to evangelical Christianity in 1894, she took Borden to Chicago Avenue Church, where he responded to the gospel preaching of R. A. Torrey. From that juncture, prayer and Bible study became hallmarks of his life. After he graduated from The Hill School, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, at age 16, his parents gave him the gift of a chaperoned trip around the world, during which he first developed a desire to become a foreign missionary.
- Borden entered Yale University in 1905, and with the encouragement of young classics tutor Henry Burt Wright, Borden began daily prayer groups that within two years reached the entire university from the freshman class to the senior. At a 1906 Student Volunteer Movement convention in Nashville, Samuel Marinus Zwemer, "a man with a map," impressed Borden with his emphasis on the open doors for evangelizing the Muslim world.
- Borden's intention was to become a missionary to Uyghur Muslims in northwestern China, but he decided first to study Islam and Arabic in Cairo, boarding with a Syrian family there so that he would hear Arabic

spoken as much as possible. He also spent time distributing on the streets Christian sermons written in a Koranic style. In March 1913, he contracted cerebral meningitis and died a few weeks later. He was 25.

- According to an oft-repeated anecdote, following Borden's death, his mother found in his Bible the words "**No Reserve**" and a date suggesting it had been written shortly after he had renounced his fortune in favor of missions. Later he was said to have written "**No Retreat,**" after his father supposedly told him that he would never hold a position in the family business. Finally, shortly before he died in Egypt, he is supposed to have added the phrase "**No Regrets.**"

My brothers and sisters, the Lord is calling upon us to follow Jesus Christ. *What is your answer to His calling?*