
Take heart & gain sight – Mark 10:46-52

We're not told how long Bartimaeus had been blind or a beggar there by the roadside on the outskirts of Jericho on the road to Jerusalem some 15 miles SSW. Not a motorway nor a by-pass but the equivalent of a narrow lane. Nearly time for Passover, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims were on their way to Jerusalem. But more than all that, the blind man was aware of something exciting the attention of the crowds. As the bustle presses, nearly trampling him, Bartimaeus listens & picks up name of Jesus & some of what people were saying. Jesus is passing through on fateful last trip to Jerusalem.

If this may be the Messiah; if this man has been healing people, this may be his once in a lifetime chance.

Bartimaeus parked on a cloak, his sole possession, the place where some charitable passers-by chucked the small coins he depended on to buy food, began to shout for all his worth, ***Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Many told him to be quiet but Bartimaeus just kept on shouting all the more*** to be heard above the noise and excitement of the crowds.

And Jesus did hear him. He stopped, called him over, asked what he wanted Him to do him for him, ***Rabbi, I want to see. Go, your faith has healed you. Immediately, he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*** Note, not only did Bartimaeus receive his sight, but he also saw / grasped the importance of following Jesus without delay along the road – probably not even returning to retrieve the cloak which had held his takings and provided warmth & shelter at night.

What do you want me to do for you? Jesus had asked the same question of James & John only a few verses earlier. They had wanted importance & status. Bartimaeus just wanted to see; & his faith brought healing.

Persisting in his plea for ***mercy*** – God's grace - & calling him ***Rabbi/my teacher***.

Do we persist? Are we willing to learn?

Do we recognise that we are blind and in the dark in so many aspects of our lives?

Take heart! There is always One who does have time for you,
.. who has help for you, who is always ready to wait & to listen.

Your voice is not lost among so many others, even in the cacophony of millions of cries
He hears every whispered call for help. Not like a human switchboard, taking only one call at a time; nor will He put you on hold, & play heavenly music while you wait.

He is always ready to wait and listen, always ready to help and heal

However battered & weary & in the dark you may feel, may we, like Bartimaeus, persist in our prayers; respond promptly to Christ's call to us; rid ourselves of everything that hinders us, every sin that can hold us back. May we see Jesus for who He was & who He is now, God himself but also the One who invites us to know God's love & healing & leading in our lives.