

"There is a river whose streams delight the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her; she will not be moved. God will help her when morning dawns. Nations rage, kingdoms crumble; the earth melts when He lifts His voice. The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46: 4-7

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." Isaiah 55:1

## BLIND BARTIMAEUS

### Text:

"Next, they came to Jericho. And as Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho with a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many people admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man. "Take courage!" they said. "Get up! He is calling for you." Throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus jumped up and came to Jesus. "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "Rabboni," said the blind man, "let me see again." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. Mark 10: 46-52

### The Hook:

We will talk today about 2 things: Background & "Immediately"

Turn to this quiet account of the meeting between our LORD and blind Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus was beset with 2 great problems: Poverty and Blindness. This poor, blind man's faith described in this wonderful passage of scripture, is an excellent picture of faith - glorious faith - fearless faith!!!, faith that hopes and believes in the things yet unseen. ***"Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see. This is why the ancients were commended. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."*** Hebrews 11: 1-3 and that HE is a rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM! ***"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek HIM"*** Hebrews 11: 6

Upon reading Mark 10:46-52, did you notice the word "immediately" in verse 52?

***Friends, so many times in the scripture people were healed "immediately".***

- ***"So HE went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her immediately and she began to wait on them."*** Mark 1: 31

- ***"Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and it immediately came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment."*** Matthew 17:18

- ***"Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed."*** Mark 1 :42

- ***"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out threats of murder against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest to ask for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.***

***As Saul drew near to Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" "Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," HE replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*** Acts 9:1-6

- ***"Therefore HE is able, once (immediately) and forever, to save those who come to God through HIM. HE lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf."*** Hebrews 7:25

This word "immediately" occurs some 79 times in the New Testament, about 40 times in the chapter of Mark alone!!!

Here's the great truth for us today, JESUS CAN WORK IN YOUR LIFE TODAY, QUICKLY AND IMMEDIATELY!!!

When it comes to our hurts, failures, sins, lack of purpose, lack of meaning -- HE can do it!!!!

Last week we discovered that JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING!

That's just what blind Bartimeaus discovered on that day! Oh! May our hearts be moved with the blind man's cry! " Jesus, Son of David, Have mercy on me!!!!

**"Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving devotion; according to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me clean of my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." Psalm 51: 1-3**

**"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence; take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit." Psalm 51: 10-12**

My friends, HE can do that right now - immediately - just ask HIM! Trust HIM!!

## **The Book I:**

## **Blindness**

I have pondered this text all week. I think Bartimeaus did everything he could in his own strength to cure his blindness. He must have gone to doctors, gotten expert opinions and advice from friends and family. All to no avail! He had no options left. No ray of sunlight had ever come across his eyes, for he was blind!

It seems he and his father, Timaeus, were well known in the community, but still he could not move the heart of strangers to charity, nor could he find a willing guide to help him through the dreary miles of that land.

So there he sat, day after day! He had given up! It was too much to bear, a poor man, and blind to boot!

But then on this day, this precious day, a day that The LORD had made **"The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad." Psalm 118: 24**, a historic day, recorded in the Bible, forever, as a inspired account for our instruction because of what happened on that day, things changed.

It started as usual, he likely emerged from a stable somewhere and brushed the straw that stuck to his clothes, for he was a poor, blind man, and cautiously walked into town. Maybe he would be lucky enough for someone here and there to give him a crust of bread for breakfast. Don't forget he begged for a living.

The Mosaic Law contains no enactment concerning begging, yet it makes provision for relief of the poor. **"If any of your fellow Israelite become poor and sell themselves to you, do not make them work as slaves." Leviticus 25:39**

So there he sat outside the city gates, begging, crying, "Help the blind! Help the blind!" and people would pass by, strangers, pilgrims, residents, Levites, people of all sorts of occupation and social standing would pass by. Some might kick him, spit on him, curse him, throw things at him, deride him. Some might toss him a crust of bread, or maybe, just maybe even the occasional small coin, and he would fumble in the dust to find it.

There he sat day after day, in that poor, blind condition, with little to eat and not much water to drink and quench his thirst. Probably the negative self-talk was raging in his mind: "No-one is worse off that I am." "I am a poor, blind soul." "I am the poorest of the poor."

Maybe occasionally a scripture from David would come to his mind. **"Blessed are those who have regard he weak, The LORD delivers them in times of trouble. The LORD protects and preserves them - they are counted among the blessed in the land - HE does not give them over to the desires of their foes." Psalm 41: 1-2** or **"My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before YOU. For YOU have upheld my right and my cause, sitting enthroned as the Righteous Judge."** Psalm 9: 3 & 4 or **"For the needy will not always be forgotten; nor the hope of the oppressed forever dashed."** Psalm 9: 18

Friends, I too was once a poor, blind man until Christ found me and touched my heart! And then I saw!!!

The Bible teaches that we have 2 sets of eyes, the physical and the spiritual. Jesus places emphasis on the spiritual eyes of your soul.

So many people are blind to GOD's truth and love, blind to HIS glorious ways. Yes, right now many can not see the hope we have in Jesus!

**"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." 1 Corinthians 2:14**

**"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4**

Yes, God has blinded the eyes of the unbelievers to the wonder, truth, love, grace, preciousness and forgiveness of Jesus.

This is just what happened to a church in Laodicea. They became luke-warm. **"So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of My mouth! You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, white garments so that you may be clothed and your shameful nakedness not exposed, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see." Revelation 3: 16-18**

To see, we must find Christ. **And He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and in His name repentance and forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. Luke 24: 46 & 47**

Jesus said we must be born again. **"Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." John 3: 3 "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." John 3:6**

Friends, open your heart to Jesus. You need Christ!

**"For it is God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness", and made HIS light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4: 6**

Then, this day, something different happens.

Bartimeaus hears a great crowd. He hears it! He feels it, swarming down the street, getting ever closer! What is it? Festival days with large crowds mean greater chances of getting something good, but this is not a festival day. But it is a large crowd, still good for begging! He calls out, "Help the blind, Help the blind!" He calls out louder and louder with out-stretched arms as the throng moves toward him.

His ears are perked up, hearing the voices of people from every walk of life moving closer, hearing religious leaders, hearing civic and political leaders. What is it all about? Who is passing by? Who is creating all this clamour? The people around him tell him, "Be quiet!" (Mark 10: 48), but still he calls out, "Help the blind!"

Then he hears it Jesus of Nazareth, and he begins to call out all the louder and more urgently, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! (Mark 10:47)

Bartimeaus went from begging to declaring "Yesua" "Immanuel" meaning "God with us"!

He may have been poor and blind, but he was not deaf! He had heard that Jesus could perform miraculous healings! So he cried out, louder and louder, with more and more urgency as Jesus began to pass right by him.

It was a cry to the right Person, it was a cry for the right thing, it was a cry at the right time, for it was a cry that stopped Jesus!

**"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4: 12**

Jesus passed his way, and Jesus is the only one who offers eternal life to the fullest!! **"For GOD so loved the world that HE gave HIS only begotten SON, that whosoever should believe in HIM, shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16**

My friend, Jesus passes by you today. HE knows all about you!! Call HIM! Go to HIM!! Why miss it? Put off your spiritual blindness and poverty.

This poor man prayed and he became rich in faith in minutes!!!! **"This poor man called, and The LORD heard him; HE saved him out of all his troubles." Psalm 34: 6**

## **The Book II**

### **Poverty**

Poverty abounds. I'm sure Bartimeaus thought about his poverty, helpless in it., struggling and suffocating under it's effects.

Today 1 in 7 (4.9 million) Canadians live in poverty. We have so much and yet so many live in poverty, just as helpless as blind Bartimeaus.

Jesus had come into Jericho, and as HE went, HE met a blind man begging at the side of the road, and healed him. **"When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. So HE took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then HE spit on the man's eyes and placed HIS hands on him. "Can you see anything?" HE asked. The man looked up and said, "I can see the people, but they look like trees walking around." Once again Jesus placed HIS hands on the man's eyes, and when he opened them his sight was restored, and he could see everything clearly." Mark 8: 22-25**

Bartimeaus, however, seems to have resided on the other side of the city, therefore he did not get his blessing until Jesus was about to leave it.

He is sitting in his customary place by the wayside where someone has left him so that he could stay there all day to beg. Suddenly, he hears a great noise and loud trampling of many feet. What is all this noise? What is creating this fuss?

The answer is Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. (Mark 10:47)

Here is Bartimeaus' great opportunity, his great invitation to go to Jesus!!

It is an invitation to you as well. Jesus calls, "Sinner come to ME and live!". **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11: 28**

**"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:4**

HE says, "Call on ME in the day of trouble and I will come! ***"and call on ME in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour ME"*** Psalm 50:15

Today - Mercy is freely presented to you.

Today - The declaration is made. ***"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."*** Revelation 22: 17

Today - This offer of salvation is being made with out-stretched arms! ***"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*** Matthew 28: 28-30

***"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*** Isaiah 1:18

***"So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."*** Romans 10:17

And there we have a picture of faith!!!!

I hope it's your picture!

The gate of heaven is only to be opened one way, by the earnest cry, the plea of faith, by prayer!

"Son of David, Have mercy on me!!!!"

It's that burning, hankering, yearning, burning lava of prayer, that finds the throne of GOD, and finds HIS ear!

Yes spiritual blindness is deadly, Satan has so many blinded to spiritual realities and eternal realities! But God sees our sins and excuses. And so many more are poor in the things of GOD because of spiritual poverty! Give yourself to GOD so that you will be rich in spiritual things!!

Maybe you have no possession in your pocket and nothing in your wallet, but friend, when you come to Christ, all that changes!!!!

You can be poor in this world's goods, yet still be rich in God. or

You can be rich in this world's goods and be poor in things of God.

Oh, it's so much better to be rich in spiritual things, where Jesus says, ***"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*** Matthew 6: 19-21

***"And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?"*** Mark 8: 36

And then there are all sorts of people, doing so many different things, all trying to earn their way into heaven. Doing great works, doing things in their own strength, doing carnal things of earthly strength, even good things, but they can not earn their way into heaven. ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*** Ephesians 2: 8 & 9

It is only the blood sacrifice of Jesus that can earn you a place in heaven. ***"In HIM we have redemption through HIS blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of HIS grace"*** Ephesians 1:7

***"If we confess our sins, HE is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*** 1 John 1:9

This is why Jesus died on a cross for our sins. ***"Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed HIM (JESUS) over to be crucified."*** Matthew 27: 26

***"When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left."*** Luke 23:33

***"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Like one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered Him stricken by God, struck down and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."*** Isaiah 53: 3-5

***"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit."*** 1 Peter 3: 18

This is why Christ was marred and broken for our sins. ***"Just as there were many who were appalled at him -- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness--"*** Isaiah 52: 14

This is why you must be born again, you must give your life to Christ. ***"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God***

were not with HIM." Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time to be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit. Do not be amazed that I said, 'You must be born again.'" John 3: 1-7

You must be born again of the Spirit! This is the only way to escape your blindness and poverty!

### The Book III:

### Helpless & Hopeless

Poor blind Bartimeaus, helpless and hopeless, could never get himself better, could never see a shade or a shadow, could never escape the problems of poverty, could never see anything beautiful! He was caught in a trap, in a revolving cycle of doom & gloom, of doubt & pout, of misery & melancholy, sadness & sorrow!

So many today are stuck in cycles of dirt & doubt. Sin has become master and ruler. So many have become slaves and servants of sin. **"When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness". Romans 6:20**

**"What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin." Romans 3: 9**

**"As for you, you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience. At one time we all lived among them, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath." Ephesians 2: 1-3**

So many are feeling helpless and hopeless. Even our whole world has become helpless and hopeless, scores of wars and skirmishes all over the world. Little skirmishes exploding into big wars and pin-prick provocations!

The Bible tells us why. Because man has lust and greed in his heart. **"For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come--sexual immorality, theft, murder," Mark 7: 21**

**"Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed." Ephesians 4: 19**

Men fight and hate. The Bible informs us that this is a spiritual problem, and spiritual problems can only be solved with spiritual solutions... the solutions GOD gives! **"I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances." Ezekiel 36: 25-27**

**"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34: 18**

**"I sought the LORD, and HE answered me; HE delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34: 4**

You, today, right now, come now, and receive without money and without price, your spiritual sight.  
**Isaiah 55:1**

Only Jesus Christ can give you spiritual sight!!!

Only through Christ can you be made spiritually rich beyond imagination!!!!!!

Don't waste your life!!!!!!!

### The Took:

Friends what are you asking for today? What is it your soul is craving?

Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" **Mark 10: 51**

What a question! What an amazing question!!!

And Barimeaus had the answer, **Mark 10: 51** How plain the confession, not one word too many. "Lord that I may receive my sight!"

There was no stuttering, no stammering, no hesitation, no doubt. Nor was there any reluctance like, "Lord I hardly know what to say.", but with boldness and confidence, "Lord that I may receive my sight."

So likewise, be bold, be forthright, be honest! Tell Jesus! Keep nothing back!!! Implore HIM!! Beg HIM!

Ask HIM to take your heart and cleanse it! **"Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin."**

**Psalm 51: 2**

**"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." Psalm 51: 7**

***“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalm 51: 10***

He asked, and he received his sight at once, not in fits and starts. He received his sight immediately!, instantly!, completely! The blind man saw immediately!!!! Suddenly the whole world was available to him through what he saw in Jesus!!!! His communion was with Christ! His joy was everlasting!!!

***“Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout unto God with a voice of triumph.” Psalm 47: 1***

***“The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing.” Proverbs 10: 28***

***“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1: 8 & 9***

***“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13***

He called him Rabboni, his very own LORD and Saviour!, the Master of his life!!!!

Friends, Jesus was on HIS way to Calvary, and still had time for this man.

Jesus paid the price for our sin, and you receive it free, without cost, as a gift!!!!

Someone has said, “Sin is the insanity of forsaking the pursuit of your pleasure in GOD.”

Call Jesus! Now is the time!!!

***“For he says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6: 2***

***““God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”” Hebrews 4:7***

Jesus has time for everyone, and anyone!!! Jesus never forgets, never ignores those who call HIM!!

Remember, Bartimeaus threw off everything ***“Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.” Mark 10: 50***

Bartimeaus abandoned everything to follow Christ. Nothing hindered him. He ran to Christ!!!

Friends, Give it up and run to Jesus! HE is waiting!!!

***“Let me run, loose and free, celebrating GOD’s great work, every bone in my body laughing, singing “GOD there is no-one like YOU”” Psalm 35: 9***

Don’t miss the greatest thing ever! Don’t miss this great opportunity! Don’t miss the mercy of Christ!!! Don’t miss your chance for salvation, forgiveness of sin, and the new life HE offers you today – right now!!!

Call out to HIM, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!!!”

***“On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners (to repentance).”” Mark 2: 17***

Jesus is calling us! HE has time for us! HE is looking for our faith, and faith involves a bold and persistent asking!!!!!!

What are you asking Jesus to give you? What is the craving of your soul?