

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus despite opposition. Is there anywhere you need Jesus' help but have been reluctant to ask? Will you take a step of faith and call on him today?
- Has Jesus called out to you, but you've been reluctant to respond? Can you identify what has been holding you back? What can you do this week to throw those things aside and come to Jesus?
- What is one thing you could do this week to help you stop relying on your own strength and start relying on God?

## PRAYER

- Ask God for healing in any areas where you really need it, physical, emotional, relational, financial, or spiritual.
- Ask God to help you deal with whatever is hindering you from reaching out for his help or whatever is holding you back from responding to his invitation.
- Imagine Jesus is asking you, 'What can I do for you?' Now respond to him in prayer.
- Pray for more faith, trust, and belief in things that may seem impossible.

## NOTES

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## Week 6: Blind Bartimaeus

## CONNECT

- What do you think of when you hear the words 'blind faith'?
- Have you ever experienced what you would call a 'miraculous' healing, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual?

## WORD

*"<sup>46</sup>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. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup>Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." <sup>50</sup>Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." <sup>52</sup>"Go," said Jesus, "**your faith has healed you.**" Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."*

**Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)**

## THOUGHT

It is often said that seeing is believing. But is that really true? We have seen in previous studies that the Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders) refused to believe in Jesus, in spite of seeing many miracles and witnessing life-changing incidents. They failed to see the true identity of Jesus. Bartimaeus, the blind man 'saw' Jesus as the Messiah, Son of David, who could heal him from his blindness. Faith is seeing beyond the possible and trusting God's promises for the impossible. Jesus can heal us, but we need to set aside anything that hinders us from believing his ability to heal us. Hebrews 12:1 says "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." In this bible study, we are going to look at a person who was blind, yet he 'saw' and believed in Jesus and received physical and spiritual sight.

## DISCUSSION

1. Read the following statements about Bartimaeus. What do you think attracted Jesus' attention to him?

- ☐ That he was poor. One of many beggars on the road to Jerusalem, likely bereft of any possessions beyond an old cloak.
- ☐ That he was depressed. Swallowed up by his current condition and hopeless circumstances.
- ☐ That he was determined. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, he began to call onto Jesus. He was determined to get Jesus' attention, even when people tried to keep him quiet.
- ☐ That he was full of faith. He must have heard about Jesus, his miracles, healing, his claims, and teachings and he must have believed that Jesus could heal him.

2. Bartimaeus called Jesus, 'Son of David,' meaning that he believed Jesus to be the promised Messiah. This faith in who Jesus was ultimately led to his blindness being healed. Who do you see Jesus to be? How has your view of Jesus affected your relationship with him?

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3. Bartimaeus was determined to get to Jesus. Even though others criticized him and tried to silence him, he persevered he kept calling out to Jesus. When Jesus responded, he threw his coat aside, a prized possession for a beggar, 'jumped up and came to Jesus.' Have you ever had a 'come to Jesus' moment where you pursued Jesus in spite of opposition and threw everything aside to respond to God?

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4. It is ironic that the blind beggar could 'see' what the religious leaders failed to see. Bartimaeus identified Jesus as the Messiah, the 'Son of David', but the religious leaders criticized Jesus when people called him 'Son of David'. Their religious works and pride blinded them to God. Isaiah 49:6 says that all our righteous acts, our religious attempts to demonstrate our own righteousness, are like an old filthy coat in God's eyes and actually repel him. Are you more like the religious leaders, relying on your own works to justify yourself or more like Bartimaeus, relying on Jesus

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5. Why do you think Jesus asked him the question, "What do you want me to do for you?" If Jesus were to ask you that question, what would you say?

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