

“Restoration of Bartimaeus’ Sight”

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“Jesus Illustrates His Care For The Outcast. Jesus Is Truly Great”

Read Mark 10:46-52



Mark uses the word “blind” in only two places (Mark 8:22, 23; 10:46, 49, 51). There is earnestness in Bartimaeus’ approach. He is loud and persistent. His advance causes others to be irritated by him. His appeal is direct and personal. He identifies Jesus as “Son of David” and “Rabboni.” ““Son of David’ is a Messianic title and is the only place in Mark where it is used to address Jesus.”¹ The term, “Rabboni” is used only here and in John 20:16 when Mary speaks to Jesus in the most tender and heart-felt language. Bartimaeus realize that Jesus only and Jesus alone held the answer to his request. None but Jesus could give him sight and it would only be because of His great mercy that Bartimaeus would be healed.

Up until the very end of His public ministry Jesus does the work to which He was called. Everything about Him openly declares Him to be God’s Hero. From Mark 1 through Mark 10 “Jesus healed many who had various diseases.” The only means of silencing Him will be to put Him to death. Other than this direct assault, there is no stopping Him.

The electricity in the air had to be all consuming. The pull of His person and work compelled a response. No one could possibly remain neutral. All would come and all would conclude. In his famous book *Mere Christianity*, Lewis makes this statement, “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.”

Jesus Christ is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (1:8). He is the Son of God whom the Father loves and in whom He is well pleased (1:11; 9:7). He calls men to follow Him (1:17; 2:14). He teaches doctrine (1:22), casts out evil spirits (1:23), heals the demon-possessed and diseased (1:32, 33). He is God alone (2:7). He is the Son of Man (2:10). He is the great physician who heals the sick hearts of humanity (2:17). He is the Lord even of the Sabbath (2:28). He is the Son of God (3:11). Jesus is stronger than the strong man (3:27). He is the one who strikes terror in those who see and hear (4:41). He is the Son of the Most High God (5:7). He is the prophet (6:4). He is the feeder of 5,000 (6:44). He controls and commands all elements (6:48). He is Lord (7:28). He opens blind eyes and deaf ears (7:32). He is greater than John and Elijah and the prophets (8:28). He is the Christ (8:29; 9:41). He is the Son of Man (8:31, 38; 9:9, 12; 9:31; 10:33). He is the incarnate glory of God (9:3, 4). He is teacher (9:17; 9:38). He is the One who

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blesses children (10:16). He alone is good (10:17, 18). He does the impossible (10:26, 27). He is the One who will drink the cup and be baptized with the baptism (10:39). He is the servant who gives His life a ransom for many (10:45). He is the Son of David (10:48). He is Rabboni (10:51).

This is who He is and this is what He does. His name is Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). Let us think on Him and give Him praise. Let us join the heavenly anthem whereby we cry out with loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." And let us join "the four living creatures kept saying, 'Amen.' And the elders [falling] down and worshipping [with them] for to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Rev. 4:12-14).

¹ *The NIV Study Bible* on Mark 10:47

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