

The Day Jesus Stood Still

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(Dec. 10, 2006) Dec. 28, 2008

“And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.”

Mark 10:46-52

As we consider Mark 10:46-52 this morning I would like to speak on *“The Day Jesus (Son of God) Stood Still.”* What a fascinating event; God robed in fleshly attire would stand still. What love and compassion of our great God to stand still and bestow mercy to a hell deserving sinner. Jesus is on His last walk to Jerusalem, towards Calvary’s Mount to offer Himself as substitute and sacrifice on the cruel cross. Jesus is walking to His death. We see the Omnipotent God stopping in His path suddenly at the cry of a helpless and needy soul crying out for mercy. He was on an appointment from Heaven to do the will of God. Nothing had stopped Him. Nothing would stop Him. Nothing could cause Him to wait. Nothing would divert or sidetrack Him from His work, not Satan, not unbelief, not Herod, not the Sadducees, not the Pharisees, not His Disciples, not even His own mother, for He said to her in John 2, *“...Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come,”* and in Luke 3, *“...Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business.”* Nothing would stop Him. But one, lonely, poverty stricken, hopeless, weak, helpless blind beggar heard that Jesus was passing by and began crying for mercy, looking for help, calling in faith--- STOPPED THE SON OF GOD! **“Jesus stood Still”**. He stood still to hear the cry of a penitent sinner broken over his condition. What mercy, what grace, what compassion, yea what LOVE! The Lord Jesus Christ in great compassion will not neglect the cry of a sinner seeking mercy. John 6:37 says, *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

This is a story I enjoy reading over and over. I’m impressed with Blind Bartimaeus’ desire and dedication to get Christ’s attention and I’m deeply moved by Christ stopping to hear the cry of a poor sinner and bestowing unto him his desire. One writer says, *“Faith is frequently found where it is least expected. There were great multitudes that followed the Lord Jesus as he walked along and taught the people. Some for loaves and some for look - Some out of curiosity and some out of conviction - Some for greed and some for grace. But there were few, very few who believed on Christ. Many, many who saw his miracles yet believed him not. But here is a blind man. A man who never saw any of our Lord’s miracles. He knew the Master only by hear-say, by the testimony of others. Yet, he believed him.”*

This story is also mentioned by Matthew and Luke. There seems to be an apparent contradiction to some in the gospels concerning this story, because one gospel says there were 2 blind people who were healed and then you have one gospel saying as he was going in to Jericho and another that says he was going out of Jericho. Matthew (20:29-34) reports that two persons were healed whereas Mark and Luke (18:35-43) both say there

was one person healed. The way this can be explained is that Mark and Luke focus on the prominent one being healed, that is, Bartimaeus. Only Mark mentions his name and apparently Bartimaeus was the leader of the two. The other issue is that Matthew and Mark report this healing to have taken place when Christ left the city of Jericho. Luke said it occurred when Christ "...was come nigh unto Jericho..." The apparent discrepancy regarding the place where Bartimaeus was healed can be resolved by understanding that there were two Jericho's, a new Jericho and an old Jericho, which existed in the time of Christ. Remember, Joshua conquered Jericho and God cursed that city. Herod the great built a new Jericho which was also his summer home. They were about 2 to 3 miles apart. Therefore leaving old Jericho would be the same as coming nigh unto (new) Jericho. So there is no contradiction here, nor anywhere else in the Bible. The book you hold in your hands is the infallible, inerrant, inspired Word of God! I want to consider 5 things this morning:

- I. Blind Bartimaeus - His Condition**
- II. Blind Bartimaeus - His Concern**
- III. Blind Bartimaeus - His Cry**
- IV Blind Bartimaeus - His Comfort**
- V Blind Bartimaeus - His Conversion**

I. Blind Bartimaeus - His Condition. The first thing we want to look at is his condition. He was a blind beggar whose name was Bartimaeus. He apparently lived near or in Jericho. Verse 46 also says that he was the son of Timaeus, which in the Greek means son of pollution. His condition is that he was blind, he was a beggar and that he is the son of pollution. What a description of those outside Christ. He has been blind since he was born. Blindness was a common condition in Biblical times because of various diseases and sanitary conditions. In his blind condition, Bartimaeus is a good type of every person born into this world. All of us are born blind into this world, that is, spiritually blind. We are not able to see the things of God; we cannot see the importance of the Kingdom of God. We cannot see our sins as God sees them, this is why we make excuses and blame everyone else. Isa.44:18 says, "*They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their **eyes**, that they cannot see; [and] their hearts, that they cannot understand.*" Jer. 5:21 says, "*Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have **eyes**, and see not; which have ears, and hear not.*" Our Lord Jesus Christ says in John 3:3, "*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he **cannot see** the kingdom of God.*" I Cor.2:14 reminds us that, "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.*" Thus, Blind Bartimaeus is a type of every person outside the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor.4:4-6 says, "*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*" And Eph.4:18, "*Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.*" Just as Blind Bartimaeus groped in physical darkness; those outside Christ grope in spiritual darkness. Isa.59: 9 & 10 says, "*Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, [but] we walk*

in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if [we had] no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; [we are] in desolate places as dead [men]."

Blind Bartimaeus was also a beggar. His physical condition prevented him from finding and performing a job to earn a living. In that day, there were no welfare programs or charitable institutions that would help him. There were no social security or government programs which he could turn to. He was impoverished and survived by begging on the sides of the streets, verse 46 says, *"...sat by the highway side begging."* Oh, to God that He would remove the blindness from your eyes so that you could see your heart as God sees it. If you saw your self as Bartimaeus you would begin to beg and cry unto God for mercy. God does not beg sinners, sinners beg God. One more thing before we go to our next point. He was also the son of pollution. All of us are sons and daughters of Adam and we have inherited his sinful depraved nature and thus are born into this world sons and daughters of pollution. May God cause you to see yourself not just as a sinner but as a depraved sinner, born polluted with a corrupt heart. I can assure you that if you see yourself like that you will cry out. You will beg God for mercy, but your awful pride blinds you from seeing your true condition and thus you go on your way, without hope or without any concerns.

II. Blind Bartimaeus - His Concern. Secondly, His Concern. No one had to persuade Bartimaeus that he was blind. No one had to convince him or plead with him. No one had to lead him in prayer saying, *"Dear Lord I know I am blind..."* No, he knew his condition. He knew he was blind and he was begging on the side of the road to survive. He heard the commotion; he heard the crowd and probably at first thought with all these people surely I'll make some money someone will give me something. He was working the great multitude, but then he heard something else that gave hope and excitement to his heart. Not only did he hear the crowd coming, but he heard that Jesus was also near. He was put in a situation, ask for money or ask for Christ? Beg for money or beg for Christ? He had heard others speak about the One who had caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear and the dead to live again. Perhaps he wondered if He did it for them, can he do it for me. He saw his condition, but better yet, he was concerned about his condition. He took interest in his condition and became very concerned about his situation. He believed that Jesus could heal his affliction, but he was helpless to get to Christ. This poor old beggar's life and soul appeared to be on the path to eternal damnation, but in the glorious providence of God, the Lord Jesus Christ would cross his path. He could not come to Christ, what could he do? He was desperate! He felt hopeless and helpless. He was concerned about his situation. Oh to God that you would be as concerned for your soul as was Blind Bartimaeus.

III. Blind Bartimaeus - His Cry. The third thing we want to consider is his cry. Mark 10:46 & 47 it says, *"...blind Bartimaeus...sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me."* Because Bartimaeus was desperate he cried out. May God make you desperate concerning your lost soul this morning so that you would cry, Jesus, thou Son of David have mercy on me! His desperate condition made him call more earnestly in despair. Perhaps he thought, if he passes by me, He might never pass by again and I shall have no hope. Reminds me of that blessed hymn, "Pass me not O Gentle Savior,"

PASS ME NOT, O GENTLE SAVIOR,
HEAR MY HUMBLE CRY;
WHILE ON OTHERS THOU ART CALLING,
DO NOT PASS ME BY.

Savior, Savior,

Hear my humble cry:

While on others Thou art calling,

Do not pass me by.

LET ME AT THY THRONE OF MERCY
FIND A SWEET RELIEF,
KNEELING THERE IN DEEP CONTRITION;
HELP MY UNBELIEF.

TRUSTING ONLY IN THY MERIT,
WOULD I SEEK THY FACE;
HEAL MY WOUNDED, BROKEN SPIRIT,
SAVE ME BY THY GRACE.

THOU THE SPRING OF ALL MY COMFORT,
MORE THAN LIFE TO ME,
WHOM HAVE I ON EARTH BESIDE THEE?
WHOM IN HEAV'N BUT THEE?

The blind beggar called upon Christ, by His messianic name, 'Thou son of David have mercy on me.' Blind Bartimaeus used the expression "Son of David" instead of Lord or Jesus Christ. Apparently he believed that Christ was indeed the promised Messiah who would come into the world one day and would reign from His throne and of whose kingdom there would be no end.

Bartimaeus saw that this occasion could easily pass him by, if he sat still that day and says nothing then the next day would have been like all the others before. He would be by the road begging until he died. He may have been blind, but even he could see that unless he did something about this situation, he was doomed to a life of misery and darkness. But he did not sit by, he cried out to Jesus. Some of you sit Sunday after Sunday in your blindness and do not take heed to the message of the gospel. You are like those in Luke 5:17, "*And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was [present] to heal them.*" Ezek.33:30-33, Jer.8:6, 14, 20 & 22, Matt.27:36, mere spectators at the cross. Don't just sit by, cry out like Blind Bartimaeus, thou son of David have mercy on me." If we are to be saved, if we are to hope for mercy, we must avail ourselves to every means given to us by God. We know that God is Sovereign; we know that salvation is of the LORD, we know that every chosen one will be saved. We are aware of these truths, but it is also true that man is responsible creature. Yes, we know that Jonah 2:9 declares that "*salvation is of the LORD.*" But remember also what Jonah 2:8 says, "*they that observe lying vanities*

forsake their own mercy." If Bartimaeus had believed the crowd that day and when they said, to keep quiet and not to bother the Master, he would have forsaken his own mercy. Man is responsible to believe, to repent, to cry out for mercy. Man is responsible to use the means God sets forth. We must be like that Publican in Luke 18, please turn there and look at verses 9-14. Do not neglect your responsibility; cry out to God for mercy.

Not only do we see the cry of Blind Bartimaeus, but we also see the persistency of his cry. Notice the resilience of his cry. Notice verse 48, *"And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, [Thou] Son of David, have mercy on me."* If Bartimaeus had listened to the crowd, he would have forsaken his own mercy. Some of you this morning are listening to the voice of the Devil, he is putting so many excuses before you not to come to Christ, not to repent, I'll do it later, etc. Jesus is passing you by. You might ask how? When the gospel is preached there is a sense that *Jesus is passing by*. He reveals Himself to us in the gospel. Paul tells us that the Thessalonians heard his preaching as "the word of God," and accepted it "not as the word of men, but of God. *"When ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."* 1 Thess. 2:13. The same was true of the Ephesians, *"In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation..."* Eph. 1:13. Every time you hear the gospel proclaimed, Christ is passing by. Do you feel the urgency that Blind Bartimaeus felt? What voice are you listening to? Are you laying hold of the lying vanities of the evil one and forsaking the mercies of God? If Bartimaeus had done what some of you are doing he would have sat by the road begging until he would die. But he was determined, nothing was going to stop him, the louder the crowd got the louder he cried! If God is calling you this morning, come to Him. Don't let salvation pass you by this morning, you have no guarantee that tomorrow will come or that you will hear the gospel one more time. Jesus was near to Bartimaeus and he called out to him, notice the fearful warning of Isaiah 55:6 & 7, *"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."* 2 Cor.6:2 also reminds us, *"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.)"* Blind Bartimaeus took advantage of, for lack of a better word, took advantage of the opportunity set before him. Do not neglect means.

Bartimaeus was determined to be saved. Those who stood by and those who were traveling with the Lord tried to make Bartimaeus stop crying out, however, his resiliency was so great to get help from the LORD that he continued to cry out louder and louder. He was not hindered or bothered by what others would say to him, you're too poor, you're too loud, you're too zealous, you're too blind, you're too dirty, you smell awful, don't bother or disturb the master, you're too far gone, you're just too late. No, no, no he was determined to lay hold of our Lord Jesus Christ, regardless what anyone thought or did. Matthew 11:12 says, *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."* Blind Bartimaeus was taking the kingdom of heaven by force! Again verse 48, *"And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, [Thou] Son of David, have mercy on me."* His persistency paid off. This brings us to:

IV. Blind Bartimaeus - His Comfort. *"And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee."* This is the most exciting part of this story, JESUS STOOD STILL! Here we see the great love of Jesus Christ for those whom He saves. He must needs go through Jericho for a lost sheep is to be found. *"Behold what manner of LOVE the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Bartimaeus repeated his cry and he received a response. When the Lord Jesus heard the cry of this beggar, He STOPPED! He stopped in His tracks and effectually called for Bartimaeus to come to Him. He is on the road to Calvary. Notice verses 32-34 of Mark 10. His mind is set upon Mount Calvary, His heart is set upon Mount Calvary, His determination is set upon Mount Calvary, His love is set upon Mount Calvary, His all and all is set upon Mount Calvary! He must fulfill the purpose of God. He must finish the work that the Father gave Him to do. For as a little boy His mindset was, *"...I must be about my Father's business."* As He went about doing His Father's business, He heard the voice of a lost sheep calling, HE STOPPED! HE STOOD STILL! Words cannot express what Christ did here in Mark 10:49. The winds could not stop him. The waves could not stop him. The storm could not stop Him. The angry mob could not stop Him. Those who sought to kill Him could not stop Him. The doctors, the lawyers, the Pharisees, the Scribes, the Sadducees could not stop Him. The crowds could not stop Him. But a lonely, poor, impoverished blind beggar STOPPED THE SON OF GOD! What a glorious expression of love and compassion of Christ. Christ walking and moving with a great crowd going towards Jerusalem heard the cry of a lost sheep, the cry of a poor sinner and He stopped. Can you imagine a large group walking and then the person with all the attention stops? Can you imagine the ripple affect; He stops in His tracks, yea HE STOOD STILL!

Hundreds of years before this, a great man named Joshua, by whom the walls of Jericho fell, on one occasion commanded the sun to stand still in the midst of heaven. At the command of a man "the sun stood still." *"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. [Is] not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man..."* Joshua 10:13 & 14. The great Spurgeon says, *"I have heard of Joshua who said, Sun stand thou still upon upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon in the valley of Ajalon, but I rank the blind beggar above Joshua, for he causes the Sun of Righteousness to stand still."* Christ stood still for the blind man, waiting compassionately to do his bidding. Spurgeon continues, *"I have seen servants wait upon their masters, but here is the Lord of all waiting upon one lower than a servant, waiting upon a blind man whose trade was begging."*

This action of Christ without question manifests His great compassion for the afflicted and His willingness to help blind Bartimaeus. Ps 86:5, *"For thou, Lord, [art] good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."* Neh. 9:17, *"...but thou [art] a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness..."* What amazing grace is here drawn by the pen of Mark. Here we have the Omnipotent God stopped in His tracks, held fast by the cry of a needy soul seeking His mercy! JESUS STOOD STILL and commanded him to be called, then they said to blind Bartimaeus, be of good comfort, rise, He calleth thee! Let us get to our last point.

V. Blind Bartimaeus - His Conversion. After being in such a terrible state all his life, he was going to be comforted by the God of creation. Mark 10:50-52, *"And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way."* Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called, and it was an effectual call, Bartimaeus came to Him. Notice what Blind Bartimaeus did when Jesus called him, He cast away his garment, he arose and he came to Jesus. He cast away his garment, what a glorious type of what happens when God saves a sinner. All of us are born into this world with stained and filthy garments. Remember Isaiah 64:6 says, *"But we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* All of us wore particular garments to church; no I'm talking about your clothes, this morning you either have righteous garments or filthy garments. John 11 also gives us an idea of those garments worn by those outside Christ, verse 44, *"And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, loose him, and let him go."* Let us all turn to Zechariah and chapter 3:1-5. This is what our great God does for us, removes our old filthy garments and bestows upon us holy righteous garments. Luke 15:21 & 22, *"And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put [it] on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on [his] feet."* Isaiah 61:10 tells us clearly what God does for us when He saves a sinner, *"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [herself] with her jewels."*

Not only does Bartimaeus leave his garments but he arose and came to Jesus. Our Lord graciously asked him, *"What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"* Now he calls Him Lord, *"Lord, that I might receive my sight."* What glorious words did Bartimaeus hear, *"Go your way; thy faith had made thee whole."* Here our Lord Jesus tells us how Bartimaeus came to Jesus, IN FAITH! Bartimaeus called out by faith, *"Thou Son of David have mercy on me."* He had a faith that was determined in seeking Jesus. He had a faith that called unto Jesus. He had a faith that believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of David. He had a faith that believed mercy would be given unto him. He had faith to believe that Jesus would fulfill his desire of wanting sight. His faith was so great that he was immediately healed. He was so full of faith in that he followed the Master whole heartedly in the way. This is why Christ said, *thy faith hath made thee whole!* His Faith was active; it was action in his heart. **Faith is Confidence: Confidence is Believing: Believing is Trusting: Trusting is Hope: Hope is Expectation: Expectation anticipates Mercy!** Blind Bartimaeus experienced all of this. May God be pleased to open your eyes and save you so that you can experience what Blind Bartimaeus experienced: Call upon God this morning for mercy, come to Christ in repentance and faith and follow Him in the way. Be determined like Bartimaeus; don't let anything hold you back!