

## Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions

Mark 10:46-52

Sermon Title: I Can See Clearly Now

October 28, 2018

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### Sermon in a Sentence:

An encounter with Jesus brings enlightenment, encouragement and empowerment for those who exercise persistent faith.

- The story in the text deals with blindness - both physical and spiritual. This was the final miracle recorded in the book of Mark before Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- Bartimaeus', a blind beggar, sight was restored immediately (Mark 10:52).
- Jesus gave sight to a blind man at Bethesda (Mark 8:22). Jesus touched him twice. The healing was progressive.
- Bartimaeus went from being ON THE SIDE of the road to advancing and following Jesus ON THE ROAD.

### Key Points:

1. **Acknowledge** the reality of our condition (v. 46-48)
  - a. Bartimaeus was blind, broke and bewildered. He cried out to Jesus in spite of the criticism of others to be quiet.
  - b. Until we are honest with ourselves about our need, we will remain in the same condition.
  - c. Bartimaeus cried out for mercy. He was not concerned about what others thought or how it looked.
  - d. Spiritual sight allows us to hear and understand the call of Jesus on our lives.
2. Bartimaeus **aligned** with Jesus, the true source of his strength
  - a. Draw close and align with Jesus in order to be blessed with strength and power.
    - i. Jesus says, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden...I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.
    - ii. Theme of discipleship: Jesus tells him to come so that he can follow Him. Jesus gives Bartimaeus a blank check, "What do you want me to do for you?"
    - iii. Jesus wanted Bartimaeus to come and talk with Him so that they could have a relationship.
    - iv. Jesus asked his disciples the same question. They responded, "We want to sit at your left and right hand." The disciples were still spiritually blind. Their understanding of who Jesus was was progressive. They did not understand until after Jesus rose from the dead.
    - v. Bartimaeus' response to Jesus' question demonstrated spiritual insight, he said, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight." Jesus responded, "Go, your faith has made you well."
3. We must **advance** based on our new condition and follow Jesus
  - a. The main goal is not that we are just healed. We must move from the side of the road to a destiny of following Jesus Christ including physical healing and spiritual insight. This includes the salvation power of Jesus Christ—so that we can understand who Jesus is and we can understand who we are.

- b. Jesus' physical presence was not mandated for physical healing to happen. That is not the case here.
- c. This text is a clarion call to the church to "see clearly'. The church is called to be a light in a dark world. We must pray AND be a part of the change.
  - i. We have power (opportunity) at the ballot box. Anyone not voting is blind.
  - ii. Bartimaeus had an opportunity to get better—he seized it.
  - iii. It is upsetting what is happening around us—keep moving forward. Get understanding. Ask God to show you.
  - iv. Turn whining and complaining into action. Ask for understanding.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you willing to ask Jesus to restore your sight?
2. Discuss the statement: "The desire to make a private appointment with Jesus versus asking for help publicly" mentioned in the sermon. Points to consider:
  - a. We don't want anybody to know that we need support or assistance.
  - b. Bartimaeus was not concerned about the perception of others regarding his condition.
  - c. We are not honest with ourselves.
3. Why does Jesus ask Bartimaeus what he wants when he already knows?
4. How is your sight? What do you see? How are you responding to the call of Jesus?
5. What should be the response of the church in the face of evil and hatred in the world? (Three events of hatred in 72 hours – 11 people murdered in a Pittsburgh Jewish synagogue, pipe bombs targeting democrats and two African-Americans randomly shot in Kroger in Kentucky).
6. What is the danger of not being present and focused regarding what is going on in the world? What are sources to help us have an understanding?
7. Discuss the statement: " The church has to move from being **on the side of the road** to being **on the road.**"