

being interested in collecting (a few alms) when it might have been profitable with a great crowd passing by he forgets all about this and says, I desire and my whole effort will be to get cured, and to have Jesus come and touch me. He did not attempt bold things but deliberately sacrificed the alms getting for the eye sight.

Doubtless he would have been (a fool) to do otherwise but we see the folly of men every day as they committ this error. Some glimpse of the priceless value of spiritual light and peace and yet, year after year ~~thesax~~ leaves them as it found them because they are too busy in the world to seek salvation. They are too much afraid of losing present advantage to ~~satisfy~~ set aside its claim even for a season and count the cost of their immortal nature. And while Jesus is passing by some of them are busy gathering penneys by the wayside.

What a (vivid picture) of excitement and movement. The milling crowd, the crying of the ~~sxying~~ blind beggar and Jesus stopping and here is my chance he says, and he was jumping at the chance of a lifetime. Perhaps it was a venture of desperation that leap of hope has been an endless repeated act in Christian history. The rumor of a healer and here He is ready to venture. My friends, sometimes this experience is like a volcano. As in the case of the Apostle Paul.

INTRODUCTION: We come now to discuss a well-known blind man by the name of Bartimeus the son of Timeus. Jesus was come by unto Jericho in this neighborhood and this man was seated by the highway.

Perhaps of all the (physical faculties), we probably cherish the ability to see the most. We would rather lose our hearing or our ability to speak or even an arm or a leg than to lose our sight. To help us to see more we have developed a microscope and the telescope. We have spent millions and millions on motion pictures, television. We like to see and we (sympathize) with anyone who is blind. Because of that need in our lives to see spiritually, we ourselves need to notice that out of this story comes not only the physical needs but the spiritual needs. Therefore, from a study of this account, we shall see that there are about 7 steps in the gospel through the miracle of healing of the bling Bartimeus.

I. The Need.

We must first of all see here the need and to see the need we go to a little tiny town or city called Jericho. The City of Palm Trees, of the balsam tree. The fragrant city where Chief Tax-Gatherer resided. Because of its produce he whose neighborhood robber learked. Because of the rich caravans

who passed through. A great crowd had gathered in this city and as Jesus passed through He saw the Chief Publican up in a tree. He invited Himself home with this man, where this man received salvation. And now as He is about to part Jericho preparing to go on His way to Jerusalem, a great group of people gather around Him and they talked to Him in the midst as He moves along leisurely. He is teaching them no doubt and answering their questions as they move out of the city and we get a glimpse of the need however, as they get out on the outskirts of the city.

Over there seated by the (wayside) in his usual place begging his usual occupation there is a man seated. But I expect of that man feels a need today because the countryside has a rumor that Jesus Christ is going to Jerusalem to be crowned as King. The promised Messiah and therefore He has been watching from early morn very anxiously waiting by the roadside listening to the tramp of the great multitude. Yes, they are coming nearer and nearer to where this man begs.

He was but a poor blind man, a customary object of charity He who was passing by was a great Teacher, Prophet of the people, The Messiah, The King of Israel.

And Jesus (turned His attention) from the many to the one. He has a sensitive ear and eye for those who have a need. Jesus could have said I am sorry, I am on my way to Jerusalem.

or there is a big day ahead of me or I have a great crowd waiting upon me, but the individual easily gets lost particularly when he sits as Bartimeus did on the lowest rung of the social ladder. All the more because so many of us live in overcrowded (cities) that multitudes multiply the number of the sick and the lonely and the destitute and increase the intensity of their wretchedness. No wonder none of us in mental tension and instability have enormously increased. Society and the church need desperately the eye keen to see beyond the multitudes so that we might see above the roar of the crowd the cry from the roadside, "Have mercy on me." One can be lost in the many. And you can be blind in a pew and deaf in front of an altar.

II. The Desire Verse 2

Let us now come to see the desire of this man. He no longer is interested in worldly advantage. Jesus of Nazareth is coming and someone mentioned His name and his heart leaps up within him. This is the very person I want to meet. I am poor, He is a friend of the poor. And to them His gospel is preached. I am blind, He is the Healer of the blind. And therefore the Saviour for me. I am a despised and forgotten man by the roadside and He is the King and the Gatherer of the outcast, the Healer of the broken-hearted, the One who remembers the forgotten and therefore instead of Bartimeus

obstacles from the world which calls itself Christian and overcome them, if despite all opposers he will go on until Christ is evidently and plainly with him then they who began by reprehending him will finish by applauding. They who at first said, He is mad, will end with saying, "He is a saint."

Here the rebuke comes from the crowd. A stock answer of the crowds in history to all those who made a clamor about need and suffering has been just the same. Keep still. It was a calous thing to do and we know crowds with their swift intolerance and undisciplined emotions can do heartless and cruel things. The crowd at Jericho chided the beggar for bringing his troubles to Jesus to their massive ignorance such things as poverty, affliction, had nothing to do with Jesus. When we think of the crowds New York, Chicago and London, and the poverty that stalks the land when unemployment goes up and human life goes down and then cry out. But then it is that people are swift to rebuke and there is no use to cry to Jesus. (Poverty and need) are Jesus' business. But the complete answer that is what Jesus did in this case. Sometimes it is the (very disciples) of Jesus who are met for worship in the church who by their manner and lack of concern rebuke the lonely souls that cries out for spiritual healing. Many people this day turn away from the church because of what they

But we know the blind man had a desire to see Jesus and out of my sickness came to thy health out of my want and into thy wealth. Perhaps were the sentiments of this blind man's heart.

The cry of blind Bartimeus brings to the center of the (world distress) to generations sitting in despair. The first step to salvation and to survival is that heady tumult it Jesus. Have mercy on me he can heal a blind society He can heal a disengrading integrating civilization. One of the hopeful signs of the time is that so many have been coming to see it and have been trying to come to Jesus Christ. From the moment the first (atomic) bomb was dropped there has been many voices who have listened to the warnings of Jesus Unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:5.

We know that those by God's providence who were able to make a livelihood and to labor for themselves certainly should do so, but here is a man in misery and who is miserable because of blindness and yet he turns aside from all worldly gain to seek Jesus' approval. No doubt when someone mentioned to him the name of Jesus there came to his mind the memory that a young woman had been brought back from death, that five thousand had been fed with the lindh of a little boy's basket, that a wild man had been cleaned for society again and this was the best news that Bartimeus had

ever heard and hope begins to rise in his heart and desire comes to meet Jesus Christ.

III. The Hindrances. Verse 3

We come now to see that there was opposition and hindrances in the way that Bartimeus had begun to cry and these people wanted him to keep quiet. They actually (rebuked) him that he should hold his speech but this did not silence him.

(What were the motives) of the crowd in trying to silence Bartimeus? We do not know. ~~It~~ ^{They} might have thought it improper for a beggar to try to get the attention of Jesus. They might have thought that by popular enthusiasm that Jesus would not be pleased with this blind man.

We know that (we must ask for help) if we are to receive it from Jesus. This man took that step. Jesus told us that all things whatsoever we shall ask in prayer believing ye shall receive, ~~in~~ Matthew 21:22. The (limit) He places is not on His ability or on willingness to give but in our willingness to (ask) and our capacity to (believe). No greater moment comes to the life of any person than when out of the recognition of need and faith in Christ's power ~~to meet~~ that need he falls on his knees in humility and begins to pray.

Here is a man who calls (without apology). There are some people around here who stop trying to stop him but he pays no

attention. There are always those who would scoff at the power of prayer, or the cry of a needy soul that longs to ~~xxxxx~~ come to Jesus. He cries a great more the scripture, a great deal.

~~xxxx~~
And he does (not try to explain) his blindness is worse than somebody else's. He does not try to excuse himself. But he is purely, simply crying, "have mercy upon me."

But the (crowd) who was supposed to be the professed friends of Jesus, yet were ready to suppress one whose faith went further even than theirs.

It is not easy to conceive of any obstacle in the way of the (spiritually anxious). More stumbling than this is (going too far), they said. It is (excitement). It is (extravagant). There is no need to make such a stir. ~~xxx~~ The real meaning is "It puts us about, it suggests an uncomfortable earnestness that we need to have when we see some spiritual soul counting all things loss to win Christ and overcoming the cold, formal approach of the church with a new fervor, then people cry opposition. It (seems to me) that if this man (wanted to come to Christ) they would have certainly encouraged him, but they discouraged him and they told him to hold his speech.

(Augustine) said "Does this often happen in the conflict of a spiritual soul. If a man will only be despise these

we do not leap at all. But the blind beggar did not care, about his garment. He forgot it. He was caught up in the hope and the desire and the great thrust.

I wonder if we are so careful of our garments of our interest of one sort or another that we fail to have the throb and the joy of rich discipleship. Do you leap at the word "He is calling You."?

Certainly we know that Jesus is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. It was a moment of rare triumph. Now is your chance. Jesus is bidding you come. No fear now. You will be a saved man and it is just as good as done. Look at him. He springs to his feet. He tosses his wraps ~~xxxxxx~~ aside his mantle, which he had worn to protect him from the weather and rain and the sun. And look what a Saviour He has come.

His garment probably was an old coat he had. It was not wrong for him to have it and no doubt he enjoyed wearing it but in this instance that coat was a hindrance by holding on to the coat he ~~did not know that~~ could not get to Jesus as easily and as quickly and so without hesitation he cast it aside. It is at this point so many fail. We do want want Christ but there are some other things we are unwilling to let go. It may be some positive wrong that we hesitate to

see within the church. There are many lost people today who would come and seek Jesus Christ if they had not looked upon the lives of some individuals who had proven to be hypocrites. And therefore, they have said to those souls "Be quiet" "Be still" "No need for you to try to seek Jesus".

What (discouragement) this man sought the Lord under. There was (no one) who prompted him to seek Jesus and second there were (many) who opposed his attempts and charged that he should hold his peace. And third there seemed to be a while that he was even unheaded by Jesus himself.

IV. The Waiting Saviour Verse 4

What a marvelous revelation here. We have the words stopped. It's a tribute to a person in need. He stops the (whole parade). He stands at attention before them. He stopped and gave the attention for a moment of mind of his heart to the blind beggar. And clearly said You count count. and that is one of the deep permanent needs of humanity. The need of respect, the need of assurance that one counts. And that is not merely an item in sum total or when we think about labor and other things ~~with~~ a great mass of people.

When (we move so fast) through this world I wonder if we have time to stop now and then along the way to speak to some needy soul about Jesus and try to help someone to

better understand the way to God. Jesus never healed anybody on the run. He always stopped. It was necessary part of His ministry and many of the (ills of society) today could be healed if Christian people would take time to stop and try to minister in the name of Christ.

What a marvelous (revelation of God) this is in the company of the great multitude Christ was bent on some mission going to Jerusalem but He stopped by the power of prayer from this man and it stopped Him right in the middle and the midst of a great crowd. Remember (suppose) this blind man had not prayed. Suppose he had not called to Jesus. Christ would have passed him by. And how many needs are there in your life that are not met simply because you have not prayed, you have not called upon God. How many times has God passed you by because you did not ask Him to stop?

This (man) whose prayers stopped Jesus was not the ruler of a country. He was not a king. He was not some very influential or prominent person. He was a mere beggar. And yet the Son of God stopped to give him full attention and to make available to him the mighty power of God. Many times I think as pastor of this great church in this crowded city. That we as members sometimes overlook the great fact that there are a number of people who are lonely and wretched and lost and we think in terms of the great masses we forget

about the one person. But not Jesus. He knows us one by one and when we call He answers. And He will return.

And isn't it marvelous that we can (sing with confidence) "Pass me not o, ~~gentle~~ Saviour! hear my humble cry, while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by."

V. The Hindrances Removed. verse 5

It seemed now that the hindrances were being moved out of the way. People were saying cheer up this is your lucky day. Jesus has (stopped altogether) everything for you. For He was in real trouble and we discover here that he is to receive mercy and he (throws aside) all of the hindrances that are in his way. The scripture says "And He cast away his garments rose and came to Jesus." I can (picture him) in his response as he springs and jumps forward. Bartimeus did not (fold) his garments carefully and neatly and saved say to somebody standing by, "Please look after this for a minute, I'll be back later." But he seems as (a boy) who has gone outside to play on the football field or baseball field who just pulled his jacket off and cast it aside. It seems to be in his way and this man threw it aside and leaped to his feet and he knew that the people had said, "He's calling for you." It is something we greatly need. (We are so careful) ~~about this~~ and cautious about going all out for Jesus Christ. We like to look before we leap and so frequently after a look

blind beggar of the gospel story. The one highest esteemed garment of personal righteousness to the beggars' worthless robe. That expressed the one hope that he came to Jesus.

The lines of William Carey's tomb read like this:

A guilty weak and helpless worm
On thy kind arm I fall
Be thou my strength and righteousness
My Jesus and my all.

We must keep in mind here that the Holy Spirit was at work in the man's soul and the interest in the (Spirit in the church) will not only be in the spiritual but will also be in the physical in the body. (One of the first evidences) of the power of the Holy Spirit operating in the church was in the healing of the sick and Paul palsied man at the gate beautiful when Peter said, "Such as I am give I thee. Rise up and walk." Acts 3:6.

Does the church not have this gift today?

There is (no question) but that Jesus healed people. The New Testament and the records of earthly life of Jesus is full of instances in which He laid His hands on people and healed them.

His healing was often coupled with His preaching He went through Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom

give up. It may be something that is good but it takes our time and attention away from our Lord. As long as there is anything which you are not willing to surrender you cannot possess the powers of the Saviour.

Sin and (sinful habits) are one of the coats we must cast aside. He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." He cannot forgive until I forsake it and when you ~~must~~ kneel in prayer there is something that stands between you and God, if so turn it loose and trust Him to give you strength necessary to overcome it. Many times we pray for God to give us forgiveness of this or that or the other and yet we never think about praying to God to give us strength and grace to overcome that weakness whatever it is.

The (love of ourselves) is another garment we must cast aside, if we would come to Christ. He said, "He that loveth his life for my sake shall find it" and as long as we are concerned only for ourselves and if we are unwilling to consecrate life we shall never come to power.

The (fear of what other people might think) The scrinking from Christian life and the living up to Christ's standards. Saint (Paul) went a little further not only was he willing to give up that which hinders his spiritual progress but he was even willing to cast aside all things if it hindered someone else. He said, ~~to give~~ "If meat shall cause my brother to stumble

I will eat no meat forever, that I cause not my brother to ~~stumble~~ stumble." I Corinthians 8:13.

The thing thus to remember is that Christ is never willing to take (second place) with us. We must put Him first and desire Him to the extent that for Him we are willing to give up anything even everything or else we will never have Christ fully.

He cast away (everything that might be in danger) of throwing him down or might in any way hinder him in coming to Christ. We, too, must strip ourselves of all conceit, and free our lives of every weight and the sin that like the long garment that doth most easily beset us. (Hebrew 12:1.)

VI. The Prayer of Faith. verse 6

No doubt Jesus knew what this man wanted, but He will have him tell Him and exercise of fuller meaning of faith. To hear some people own prayer one would think that it was (chiefly meant) to inform and to move God but my friends one-half of prayer is to prepare us for the mercy of God. You take (a man in a boat) with his boat tied to the shore, he gets hold of the rope and pulls it. Now he does not pull the shore to the boat, but he pulls the boat to the shore. So it is in prayer. We do not draw the mercy to ourselves as ourselves to the mercy. It is one of the secrets of the spiritual life that we get from God just as much as we can.

That is as much as we truly ask. So we come now to this man who prayed a prayer of faith and we shall see that he forgot his alms, he forgot his garment, and he followed Jesus and because of this Jesus will receive him and will honor that prayer of faith. The (gracious invitation) that Jesus has extended out has been accepted with all speed and he comes to pray a prayer of faith. And as we come to this prayer we want to keep in mind that he has cast away now all his garments and at this point I should like to relate a story that (Charles Spurgeon) told how that he discovered one stone one day a memorial tablet in a country church. And the inscription was these words: from Bartimeus, quote: "And he casting away his garment rose and came to Jesus". Upon reading those words, Charles Spurgeon thought, This man was a squire in the village. He was a high churchman. He was a great sportsman and late in life came under the influence of a Christian friend who brought him to a knowledge of the gospel and to him the words of the evangelist were applied. They were very suggestive. They told of pride, and worldly pursuit and self-righteousness of all to which the man had clung for a lifetime and he cast those away that he might come to the Saviour for a sinner saved in life's last hours a better ephitah could hardly been chosen. He said, I admired the piety that compared the rich man lying there to the poor

times until these two loves meet and we add to God's willingness our intercessory prayer and our own concern the transaction between God in our lives is not completed. In the matter of healing, ~~now~~ two wills must come together, Your will and the will of God. These two must be parallel.

There have been times in your life when you have had ~~either~~ utter prayer faith that your prayers would be answered. There have been (other times) when you have had reasonable doubt that that would not take place and many times God gives us direct assurance from above. It is like a bell tolling in our hearts and we cannot but believe. This I believe to be the prayer of faith. When it attends our asking the asking is attended by the giving.

And yet we must remember that even though it is not answered as we desire that God may give us some better things. He may even help us to glorify Him through the cross.

Dear friends, this prayer of faith which is answered for this blind man.

VII. The Needed Blessing Received. verse 7

And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus in the way. That is the final step in salvation. He got what he needed. He got off the sidelines, he began to live again, it was a miracle. But one to Christ can repeat in the life of any person present here today.

and healing all manner of sickness. Matthew 4:23.

These miracles of healing were used as (credentials) to prove His Messiahship and His divinity. When (John the Baptist) was in the prison discouraged at the turn of events, he asked for some sign of the Messiahship of Christ. Christ sent John's disciples back to him reminding him that the blind had received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and the poor had the gospel preached to them. That seemed to be enough for John the Baptist. This was part of the proof of the authority of Jesus Christ. (Unbelief) is refusal to believe in spite of evidence. That is sin. And people today who do not believe are guilty of unbelief. We have the evidences of Christ's power and His person and yet we fail to believe it.

We know that the (Holy Spirit) is still in power in our churches and in our midst but we know also that the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from churches and from individuals who will not live for Christ and who will not honor Him and who will not exercise the kind of faith that this man had. We know that we are under tremendous spiritual as well as physical (obligations) regarding our bodies. If God has created man's body, if the Holy Spirit wishes to dwell within it, then two things are true, one is that it is inconceivable that the Holy Spirit if He indwells in a human body should not be

interested in its condition and in its repair. Second, if the Holy Spirit is willing to dwell in your body and mine, then it is diffinitely (our duty) to keep that physical house in a good repair as possible and we should never knowingly demolish it with acts of evil habits. We will not allow it to fall into ruin by neglect. This man prayed for healing. Dr. Sadler, an eminent nerve specialist said, If people lived in a truly Christian way, half the diseases would drop off tomorrow morning and we would rise up a new superior race of human beings. A well-known surgeon in American once said, that sometimes the patient needs a promise more than he needs a pill. That I can not cure the fever unless I dissolve the fear that is causing the fever. W^h doctors today need something more in our medical skills than we can buy at the corner pharmacy. We need a grip on God.

That unquestioningly is the new medicine. A well-known surgeon of a famous clinic said, 75% of the people who come to his clinic are beyond are age. Their diseases are caused by the inadequacy of their spirit and this is a task of church and religion.

An English physician writing in a British Journal had this to say. "We have been so concerned about the disease picture that we have overlooked the real cause of functional disturbances. With a clear steady study of mental and physical

defeats, we find deep-rooted fears and worries and resentment as the basic causes of ill-health. I feel that we doctors have a unique opportunity to reach and meet people's deepest spiritual needs which so often result in disturbances which turn into organic diseases. We need to have the answer for the healing of the soul. More people are sick because they are unhappy than are unhappy because they are sick. It seems, my friends, that the confession of sin by Bartimeus and the coming in to Christ brought health and life to his body that he had never realized before. The body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and we of course have no right to destroy it. By any of our sinful habits.

And here we discover the truth of (James 5:13-15) the prayer of faith shall save or heal the sick man. What is this prayer of faith? It could be hardly something that is trumped up in the human heart, to say go to now I shall believe that what I see will come to pass and then it will be absolutely necessary for God to give me my position. It is not such a means of intellectual workings whereby we maneuver God in a position where He cannot help but give us whatever we desire but this prayer of faith pushed its heart upward and outward toward God. It is God or originated in God, given and we see that many times the salvation of a soul results from the coming together of two loves, God's love and ours. Many

So we come, my friends, to the cure. And the following of Jesus Christ. What would happen today if we ~~would~~ all followed this man's example that when he had been healed, he rose and followed Jesus. If every member of the church would follow Him and live up the experience of the mercy received from God, this church would be like a mass of burning furnace in the midst of a cold world. We would be set on fire and this whole city would be filled with His glory.

Success in this world comes only to those who exhibit such determination and faith. Can we hope for salvation unless our mind is set truly upon it? Grace makes a man to be as resolved to be saved as this beggar was to get to Jesus and gain his sight.

I must see Him, said an applicant at the door of a public person. You cannot see him, said the servant. But the man waited at the door. A friend went out to him and said, You cannot see the Master but I can give you an answer. No. Said the unfortunate pleader, I will stay all night on the doorstep. But I will see the man himself. He alone will scurve my turn. You do not wonder that after many, many discouraging hindrances ~~that~~ he ultimately changed his point.

It would be an infinitely greater wonder if a troubled

sinner did not obtain an audience from the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you must have grace, you shall have it.

If you will not put it off, you shall not be put off.

Whether things look favorable or unfavorable, press you on until you find Jesus, and you shall find Him, and be healed.

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St. John 10:27 A.M. (P)