

Mark Series: *Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel*
"JESUS, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!"

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 10:46-52

3 March A.D. 2013

The Coming Kingdom

⁴⁶ *Then they came to Jericho.*

- The significance of Jericho
 - Entry point into the Promised Land and the beginning of Israel's conquest (Joshua 6)
 - Jesus has already turned toward Jerusalem (v. 32), but Jericho is the first city that is named in His journey towards the cross. The New Kingdom that Christ brings is ushered in through the gates of the city that was pivotal in Israel's taking of the Promised Land; however, this New Kingdom comes in a starkly different way.
 - "But many who are first will be last, and the last, first." (Mark 10:31)
 - "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:43-45)
 - The Triumphal Entry in Mark 11. Jesus doesn't come on a war horse, but on a donkey.

The Cry of the Kingdom

And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.

- A real man in a real place not some hypothetical construct or some made up story.
- A blind beggar: what does he bring? (Mark 10:31, 43-45)

⁴⁷ *When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

- "Son of David" – Messianic title
 - The knowledge of who Jesus was didn't come because Bartimaeus was well educated. He wasn't. It came because the Holy Spirit made it clear to him.
- Application: "Help me" prayers

⁴⁸ *Many were sternly telling him to be quiet,*

- Sounds like Mark 10:13 "And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them."
 - Who are the blind ones in these two instances?
- Application: Who gets to come to Jesus? Do we determine that? Do we decide based on our preferences and comfort zone? When someone gets loud or awkward in their cries for Jesus, how do we handle them?
 - Do you see/hear people crying out around you?
 - "I stop people from coming to Jesus because I don't believe who Jesus is."

but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

- Cry out with Bartimaeus
- This is an honest, persistent prayer that reveals who Jesus is, who we are and expresses our faith.
 - "We have seen this dogged determination in the stories of other healings in the Gospel. The Syrophenician woman will not give up hope that Jesus will heal her daughter even though she is not a Jew and Jesus initially rebuffs her (7:24-30). Jairus must ignore the mockery of the mourners that Jesus can do nothing for his dead child (5:35-43). Friends must force their way through the crowd and a roof to bring their paralyzed companion to Jesus (2:1-12). The leper and the woman with the flow of blood must disregard laws that forbid them from having contact with

Jesus to receive his help (1:40-45, 5:25-34). A desperate father must overcome his doubt that Jesus can do anything to help his tormented son when the disciples have already failed (9:14-29). Healing comes to those who are persistent and are not quickly discouraged by whatever hurdles others may place in their way. How many want to see so desperately that they will ignore the put-downs of the crowd to secure that vision?" David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*

- Application: On the day when we are judged by the Most Holy Heavenly Father God, a cry like this is the only cry that will matter.

⁴⁹ *And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here."*

- Stopped like He did on the way to raise Jairus' daughter (5:30)
- Stopped like He did when the demon seized the boy and threw him to the ground (9:21)
- Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to fulfill prophecy and do what He came to do. He was busy. He was determined. He still stopped.
 - Application: Jesus stops for you. He is not too busy. He hears you
 - Do we stop for others?

The "In" Crowd of the Kingdom

So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."

- Application: Listen for the movement of the Spirit in people's lives. Can you name it?

⁵⁰ *Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.*

- Cloak – bed, coat, place to sit. This was everything for a blind beggar.
- In contrast to the rich young ruler (10:17-22)
- "Those who are healed in Mark act decisively and throw pride and caution to the wind to seize the one chance they get when Jesus passes by." David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*
- Application: What are you willing to throw aside to follow Jesus?
 - This is what we are symbolically doing every time we give God's Tithes and Our Offerings

⁵¹ *And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"*

- Same question that He asks James and John in 10:36, but note the difference in the way that Bartimaeus comes.
- He's a blind beggar. He really only wants two things: money or his sight
 - If he asks for money, then he doesn't really believe that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - If he asks for sight, he is declaring his belief.

And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!"

- "Rabboni" – lord, teacher, master
- Bartimaeus' profession is similar to Peter's confession of Christ in Mark 8:29, but notice the difference in what follows.
 - Who is really great in the New Kingdom?

⁵² *And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."*

- "Made you well" – healed, saved
 - Physical healing and spiritual salvation are connected in the Kingdom (Mark 2:1-12)

Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

- He didn't compare his healing to others. (Mark 8:22-25 - the other blind man got spit on too!)
- Followed – the difference between sight and following.
 - Sight doesn't save you alone. We must follow. It's the following that shows our faith not simply intellectual assent.
 - Bartimaeus was a real man in a real place and he was really healed! If Jesus can do that, He can certainly bring sight to our spiritual, relational and emotional blindness.