

# Jesus heals the blind Bartimaeus



Mark 10:46–52 / Luke 18:35–43

*The Lord Jesus left Jericho with his disciples to go to Jerusalem. By the side of the road sat the blind beggar Bartimaeus. When he heard Jesus pass by, he could not be restrained from shouting: “Jesus, Son of David, take pity on me!” Jesus Christ heard him and asked what he could do for him. “Lord,” the blind man replied, “I want my sight back.”*

*Jesus Christ said to him: “Go, your faith has healed you.” And Bartimaeus could immediately see again. He and all those standing around him praised God. He then followed the Lord Jesus.*

The children learn that the Lord Jesus did not ignore Bartimaeus’ persistent, believing plea.

**B**y the roadside sits a man with vacant, expressionless eyes. It is Bartimaeus, the blind beggar. He is wearing tattered clothes and has a coat pulled over his shoulders. Next to him lie a walking-stick and a bowl. Bartimaeus hears the rustling of the trees and smells the fragrant aroma of the flowers around him. Oh, how he would love to see them and enjoy the beautiful colours! But he can only touch them. He ‘sees’ with his hands. He also feels the warm sunshine on his face. He would dearly love to actually see the sun’s bright, dazzling rays! But before his eyes there is only darkness ...

Bartimaeus is forced to beg as nobody looks after him. Every time he hears footsteps, he starts calling: “Please, have pity on me! I am blind. Please give me some money so that I can buy a loaf of bread!” Some show pity and put a coin in his bowl, but others just laugh at him as they go by.

Today many people are on their way to Jerusalem as Passover is approaching. Suddenly Bartimaeus’ sharp sense of hearing tells him that a particularly large crowd of people is passing by. He notices that something extraordinary must

be drawing all these people. He asks someone hurrying past: “What is happening?”

“Jesus of Nazareth will be passing here,” is the reply.

“Jesus of Nazareth,” Bartimaeus murmurs to himself. He has already heard a lot about him. He thinks to himself:

“If Jesus is close by, then he must not pass me by.”

Loudly and excitedly he starts calling: “Jesus! Jesus! Please help me!”

The people who are walking ahead of the Lord Jesus scold him and tell him to be quiet. “Don’t shout so loudly! We are on our way to Jerusalem. Don’t bother us.”

But Bartimaeus does exactly the opposite. Despite all efforts to restrain him he continues calling persistently:

“Jesus, Redeemer, help me! Have pity on me!”

The Lord Jesus stops. The people who have been trying to restrain Bartimaeus from calling and shouting, fall silent. Lovingly the Lord Jesus calls the blind man to come to him.

Bartimaeus throws off his coat and asks some men to lead him to the Son of God. He hears the Lord Jesus kindly asking him: “What do you want me to do for you?”

Bartimaeus answers: “Lord, I want to see.” Then Jesus Christ says to him: “Go, your faith has healed you.”

Immediately there is a great brightness before Bartimaeus’ eyes. He can suddenly see the colourful flowers and the trees around him. He sees the daylight and the radiantly blue sky above! He looks into the loving eyes of Jesus ...!

Overjoyed, he thanks the Lord Jesus for this wonderful miracle. With great thankfulness in his heart, Bartimaeus starts praising and glorifying God. All those standing around him are deeply impressed. They marvel at the miracle. Bartimaeus now wants to remain with Jesus. Without hesitation he joins the ranks of Christ's followers.

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*The Lord Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. By the roadside sat the blind beggar Bartimaeus. He called loudly until the Lord Jesus noticed him. In belief and trust, Bartimaeus asked Jesus to help him. Jesus Christ healed him. Bartimaeus regained his sight! He thanked the Lord Jesus and followed him.*



- 1 We try to imagine what it must be like to be blind:
  - The children close their eyes and tell what they see.
  - The teacher gives the children something to hold which they can touch and feel with their eyes closed.
  - All the children close their eyes while one of them makes a noise somewhere in the room. The children try to guess what this noise is and where it is coming from.We now introduce the story with the words: Today we are going to hear the story of a blind man.
- 2 We describe the picture. How does Bartimaeus feel? What troubles him? What are the passers-by thinking? What do they say?
- 3 What does the Lord Jesus mean when he says to Bartimaeus: "Your faith has healed you."  
(By asking Jesus for help, Bartimaeus expresses great trust in him. He is convinced that the Lord Jesus can heal him. It is thanks to his faith and trust that he is healed.)
- 4 Jesus Christ did not ignore Bartimaeus' pleading, but showed compassion and helped him. Jesus Christ is our teacher. What can we learn from him? (We should also be compassionate, help, comfort and support ...).