

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-52

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 29:18

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many 2"x 8" construction paper strips as the number of children in your class, sequins, stickers, markers, crayons and other assorted supplies for decorating the strips, and round objects for tracing.

Tape, blocks, and as many small prizes (stickers, erasers, pencils, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Paper Watches

Cut construction paper in 2"x8" strips. Provide sequins, stickers, markers, crayons and other assorted supplies for decorating the watches. Supply round objects so the children can trace circles on the strip of paper for a watch face. Show them how a watch has a long and short hand and numbers if they don't already know.

Talk to the children about being busy and the importance of taking time for others. Tell them that **Jesus always has time for us**. Tape or paste the watches on the children's arms as a reminder of today's lesson.

LESSON TIME!

Did you ever want something so badly, so desperately, that you asked for it over and over and over again? You didn't give up asking. Three things can happen when you ask and ask for something; what do you think they are? Either you will be told to be quiet, you will get what it is that you are asking for, or you will be told to wait.

Today we will learn about a time when someone came to Jesus with a request. They were very persistent. What do you think that Jesus did? Let's find out what He did in our story today. **Jesus always has time for us.**

MARK 10:46

Then they came to Jericho. And as He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

It was common to see beggars near the rich city of Jericho. Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. Jesus knew He was on His way to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. He just had a very serious talk with His disciples about being a servant and about suffering. Their conversation on the road was about these very important and serious things.

While the disciples and Jesus were walking, a great crowd was walking along with them, probably people on their way to the Passover in Jerusalem. The street was busy and noisy. Jesus had been explaining some very important things to His followers. By the side of the road sat a beggar. That wasn't very unusual, there were probably many beggars. But this beggar became the center of attention.

MARK 10:47-48

And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

We know the beggar was a man named Bartimaeus. He had heard through the crowd that Jesus was coming. That excited this blind beggar! He may have been blind and poor, but he knew enough about Jesus to realize that Jesus could absolutely change his situation. Whatever he had heard about Jesus, Bartimaeus had come to the conclusion that Jesus was the Messiah (the One sent from God)! He called Jesus "Son of David" which was a well-known Messianic title. He asked Jesus for mercy. He was saying "Jesus I know who You are and I believe in You. I believe You can save me!"

The crowd and disciples told the blind man to be quiet. Perhaps Jesus' disciples were thinking Jesus had some very important and serious things on His mind, and didn't want to disturb Him now. They thought He was too busy with bigger things than one poor blind beggar. They told Bartimaeus to be quiet, but Bartimaeus got louder and louder. He wasn't going to give up; this might be his only chance, Jesus might not walk by him again. He didn't want to miss his chance to be saved. He cried out again "Messiah, save me!" He didn't let the crowd discourage him from Jesus. He knew the truth about Jesus. Jesus was within his reach. He didn't want to let go of this wonderful chance. He kept crying out for Jesus.

Busy Beavers

Tape off a large circle with a smaller circle inside it on the floor. Connect the two circles with one line. Put blocks in a tub outside the circle. Have a volunteer be the builder beaver and the remaining children will be the busy beavers.

The builder beaver must stay in the center circle and build a tower of blocks as quickly as possible (you may even want to time him to add to the pressure). The busy beavers must continually walk along the outside circle. One busy beaver may take one block at a time from the tub, only after the last busy beaver has given his block to the builder beaver. The builder beaver can only take one block at a time from the busy beavers and only at the marked line that connects the two circles. This should prove difficult for the busy beavers and frustrating for the builder beaver.

Have several children take a turn at being the builder beaver. As a reward for their perseverance, allow them the privilege of passing out a small prize.

Explain to the class that it can be frustrating to have needs that must be met by others, especially when it is difficult to get cooperation from them.

MARK 10:49-50

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

Then the most wonderful thing happened; Jesus stopped His journey and stood still. He told the people to bring Bartimaeus to Him. Being blind, Bartimaeus didn't know Jesus had stopped or called for him. The crowd let him know. They said, "Cheer up! Jesus heard you! He wants you. Get up Bartimaeus and go to Him." What music to Bartimaeus' ears. He threw aside his garment and went to Jesus. He had probably had his coat spread out for people to throw coins into it as he begged. Now he moved that away and hurried to Jesus!

Jesus was on His journey towards the cross. He knew all mankind down through history would depend on His dying and rising again for their salvation. He had much to do and think about, yet He stood still and called for a blind beggar to come to Him. **Jesus always has time for us.**

In all His greatness as King of Kings, in His awesomeness as Creator of the universe, as the Majestic Lord of Lords, Jesus took time to stop. His message was one of servanthood. He said in Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." His servanthood extended to a blind beggar and would extend to all of us through the cross. We are all blind beggars and Jesus has time to stop and care for us.

You may think, "I'm not blind!" But even if our eyes can see our hearts are in darkness and blind before Jesus. Our spiritual life is blind and poor. We all need the touch of Jesus, and the wonderful news is that **Jesus always has time for us.**

MARK 10:51-52

So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Jesus asks Bartimaeus what seems like a strange question to ask a blind man. Jesus knew exactly what Bartimaeus needed. He was giving Bartimaeus an opportunity to express his personal faith in Jesus. This time Bartimaeus called Him his Master. He was acknowledging Jesus as his Lord. He believed in Jesus as Messiah and wanted Jesus to be the ruler of his life, his Master and his Lord. Jesus saw his faith and saved him and healed him!

His spiritual eyes were opened as well as his physical eyes. Jesus loved him enough to stop and care for him! Jesus loves you enough too. **Jesus always has time for us.** Bartimaeus, with new eyes and a new spiritual life, became a follower of Jesus. Bartimaeus knew he was desperate, blind and poor without Jesus.

Our true condition in our spirit and our life is desperate, blind and poor without Jesus. We can do what Bartimaeus did. We can say, "I can't see; I need you to help me Jesus!" When Jesus saves we must follow Him like Bartimaeus did! How do we follow Jesus? We desire Him, seek Him in prayer and in His word and we think about Him and ask Him to show us what He wants for our lives. We can pray about everything and trust Him to answer.

Proverbs 3:5-7 says: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil."

We follow Jesus by seeking Him for the what, where and how of life. We follow Jesus by wanting to honor Him and please Him more than anyone else. We follow Him by obeying His commands and believing His promises. We draw near to Him through obedience, prayer and His word and He draws near to us. **Jesus always has time for us.** We follow Him by always having time for Him.

Timed Relay

Make a short sequence of tasks such as: pick up a block, touch the door, hop three times, put the block in a bucket, go back to the starting place, etc. Divide the class into two teams and time them to see which team wins.

Ask the children if it sometimes seems as if the grown ups around them seem to be as busy as their timed relay. Tell them that Jesus was very busy on the road out of Jericho, but he took time to stop for Bartimaeus. **Jesus always has time for us.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the unlimited access we have to Him. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.