

Discussion Notes

February 22, 2015

Mark 10.46-52

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We continue “on the road” with Jesus and his disciples, headed straight for Jerusalem. Along the way there is a noisy interruption by a blind beggar on the side of the road near Jericho. Not out of character, Jesus pays him attention.

What we know of Bartimaeus

- His son meant “son of impurity”. His name reflects his culture’s view of him. His physical problems must stem from his character. Was he getting what he deserved?
- He showed a persistence of faith (more aptly desperation) toward Jesus.

What we learn from the interaction between Jesus and Bartimaeus

- A depressing and unbiblical mindset of “it is what it is, things will never change” is relegated to its rightful place of untruth.
- John 10.10 – Jesus comes to give life and give it abundantly.
- The story of this healing is a reminder that things can’t change, the message and work of Jesus is powerful and path-changing.
- Living on this side of the resurrection of Jesus we can always remember that Jesus is always “passing by”, always available

What else do we learn?

- The beggar throws aside his coat, signifying the total dependence and abandonment to faith we must have to trust Jesus to gain “true sight”. This is a stark contrast of the rich young man who refused to leave his religious pedigree and material wealth in order to trust and follow Jesus.
- Persistence and desperation are things Jesus takes notice of. They show genuine need.
- Like little children, and blind men, we come to Jesus in need and desperate. Our spiritual riches are as rags (Isaiah 64), only as beggars and kids can we truly know God and live in the new Kingdom.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out to you about this story? What do you think it means?
- How does this story interconnect with the previous chapter in Mark?
- Can you say you are experiencing abundant life?
- Are you holding onto a coat?