

Persistence Rewarded.
Mark 10:46-52.
Sunday morning, June 15, 2008.

I. A wretched condition.

“Blind Bartimaeus... sat by the road begging.” Vs. 46

A. The Lord Jesus and His disciples come to Jericho.

Jericho was located about 15 miles East of Jerusalem and slightly North, on the west side of the Jordan River.

B. The Herods had beautified and strengthened the city.

It had a theater, and amphitheater, villas and public bathhouses.

The whole city had been dressed up with palm trees and rose gardens etc.

Its delightful winter climate made it a winter residence fit for a king.

It was known as “a little paradise” in its day.

C. Yet how little must all this beauty and splendor have meant to both Bartimaeus and the Lord Jesus.

1. To Bartimaeus, because what good did all this beauty and splendor do for him? He could not see nor appreciate any of it because of his blindness. He could

not

contribute anything of value to his city because of his disability. His life had been reduced to a miserable beggar notwithstanding all the beauty and splendor that surrounded him.

Life can work out that way for many reasons. Many people are empty and miserable notwithstanding all the beauty and splendor that surrounds them.

“Beware of covetousness, for a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Luke 12:15.

2. To the Lord Jesus as He was now within about a week from His suffering and death. “I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished.” Luke 12:50.

Similarly, after the Lord and His disciples came to Jerusalem, the disciples show the Lord the magnificence of the stones and the beauty of the temple buildings. The Lord replied: “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.” Mark 13:1,2.

3. Notwithstanding the emptiness of all the splendor and beauty of Jericho, the Lord finds something worth stopping for and to invest His time and attention in. It is the soul of the poor blind beggar Bartimaeus.

The worth of this poor wretched soul did override two other things in the soul of the Lord Jesus:

- The beauty and glory and the attraction of this ‘little paradise.’ He might have enjoyed this as a distraction from the prospect of His sufferings and death, but He did not.
- The pre-occupation of the prospect of his own suffering which He now carried as a heavy burden. Ministering to this poor soul became the priority.

Applications:

1. What security we may draw from the disposition of the Lord toward Bartimaeus!
2. What communion with Christ would be ours if we would walk in His footsteps!

II. Added difficulty.

“Then many warned him to be quiet.” Vs. 48.

A. Faith in the kindness and the ability of Jesus of Nazareth had sprung up in the heart of Bartimaeus. No doubt he had heard reports about this Jesus, how He had been willing and able to help so many needy souls.

“Faith comes by hearing...” Romans 10:17.

B. This faith causes him to cry out to the Lord. He can not see the Lord and so he cries out as the procession goes by. True faith can not be passive. It always gives birth to some kind of action in the soul.

C. The genuineness of his faith shines forth as he calls out all the more when told not to do so.

Application:

Do you believe in the kindheartedness of the Savior? Does this drive you to call out to Him, especially in the face of opposition and setbacks?

III. Persistence pays.

“He cried out all the more, Son of David, have mercy on me.” Vs. 48

A. His persistence grew out of his faith.

He believed that the Son of David was very powerful and also very merciful.

B. He was not going to let anything stand between him and his encounter with the Lord.

Application:

Are you persuaded of the willingness and ability of the Lord?

In your seeking Him, are you determined not to let anything stand between you and the Lord?

IV. Marvelous blessing.

“Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you!” Vs. 49.

A. The Lord Jesus could not pass by a soul like Bartimaeus.

He still can not pass by souls like that.

He stands still and calls them to His side.

He calls them to His side to comfort and cheer; to forgive; heal and to restore.

B. Note the readiness with which Bertimaeus comes.

He throws his long, loose and foot-catching outer garment aside and without hesitation comes (with his guides) to Jesus.

C. “What do you want Me to do for you?”

In asking this question Jesus enters into fellowship with Bartimaeus. He takes His stand next to Bartimaeus; He makes Himself available to Bartimaeus.

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to You.” James 4:8.

D. “Rabboni, (My Great One), that I may receive my sight”

And so the communication between the soul of Bartimaeus and His Lord is established.

E. “Go your way; your faith has made you well. (saved you).”

But what way would that be?

“...and (he) followed Jesus on the road.” That is still the way for you too!