

Sept 19, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

We can be assured that God does care and He does hear all our requests

VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings (Heb 10:22)

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer

(Rom 12:12 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 01, 2018)

Series: Celebrating God

**UNIT 1: God's People
Offer Praise**

NEXT WEEK

**Praise for Salvation
(Acts 2:32-33, 37-47)**

Praise by Expecting and Following Mark 10:46-52

Lesson Background and Introduction

The restoration of a blind man's sight was a great and merciful miracle. But in the larger context of the Gospels, Jesus encountered many who were spiritually blind, having unresponsive hearts that refused to recognize or honor him. Our journey with Jesus begins when we realize we are blind and on the side of the road, sidelined and desperate. It's at that point when we allow Jesus to make us whole. Then we join him, joyfully walking and learning as we go. This is a timeless picture of discipleship (Matthew 16:24; John 14:6). When we consider the necessity of faith, we learn some things about Jesus—and about ourselves. In the instance of today's text, as in those that came before, Jesus honored faith. The faith of Bartimaeus was very simple: he believed that Jesus was willing and able to help. The man was not questioned about what he knew or believed about the coming Messiah. Neither was he queried regarding exactly what he meant when he called Jesus "Son of David" (Mark 10:47–48) or "Rabbi" (10:51). Neither his doctrines nor motives were called into account (contrast Mark 10:17–18; John 6:25–26; James 4:3). When we are in crisis and see no relief, we may say "Lord, have mercy" without thinking about the import of these words. Yet this is a prayer, imploring God to notice our pitiful situation and provide relief. In that regard may we take a lesson from Bartimaeus, being willing to call on the Lord when the crowd has a different agenda. May the eyes of our hearts be opened to see Jesus clearly and obey him fully (see Ephesians 1:18).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Jesus through Jericho - Jesus and His apostles had traveled almost 100 miles from Galilee to Jerusalem for Passover. A sizable crowd of followers accompanied them as they passed through the region of Jericho. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus occupied his regular spot on the highway out of town. He heard the commotion of the crowd and asked what was going on. Someone responded, "Jesus is passing through, so get out of His way." The beggar refused to be quiet and shouted louder. He wanted Jesus to restore his sight.

Bartimaeus Calls Out - Bartimaeus expressed his faith by referring to Jesus as the Son of David, a term used by those declaring Jesus as the Messiah (2 Sam. 7:14-16). The Old Testament Scriptures describe the Messiah as a prophet filled with compassion, kindness, pity, and grace. The blind man called out in deep humility, understanding he deserved nothing from the Master, yet he persisted in getting the Healer's attention. (He must have heard about Jesus performing miracles and understood the Messiah had "healing in his wings" [Mai. 4:2].) The people around Bartimaeus attempted to quiet him, but his cries persisted. Religious leaders often looked down on the disabled, labeling their ailments as God's judgment. Bartimaeus put aside those thoughts. Today he pursued the mercy of the Lord, trusting in God's care.

Jesus Listens - Jesus heard the desperate cry of Bartimaeus. He stopped and instructed His disciples to call him over. The blind man jumped up, and Jesus asked, "What is it that you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51). Bartimaeus, an impoverished beggar, could have asked for material wealth, or poured out before the Master a list of his good works. But instead, the man only asked Jesus to heal his eyes. Jesus responded positively. After Bartimaeus regained his sight, he reacted as a true disciple—he followed Jesus. Jesus still hears the cries of believers desiring to be healed inside or desiring healing inside and out. Those who are made whole give credit to God, lifting the Father, offering Him gratitude and honor for all to see.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Expectations of the Blind Man (Mark 10:46-48)

Expectation of help (46)

- Expect Jesus' help because He provides the strength to do all things (Phil 4:13)
- Expect Jesus' help because we cannot bear fruit without Him (John 15:4)
- Expect Jesus' help because all of our competence comes from Him (2 Cor 3:5)
- Expect Jesus' help because His perfection is manifested in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9)

Expectation of answered prayer (47)

- Answered prayers because God's eyes are on the righteous (Ps 34:15)
- Answered prayers because God promises to answer even before speaking (Isa 65:24)
- Answered prayers because God promises to fulfill answers and seeking (Matt 7:7-8)
- Answered prayers because of obedience (1 John 3:21-22)

Expectation of mercy (48)

- Mercy because God accepts our cries for it (Ps 6:9)
- Mercy because of God's great mercy (Ps 25:6)
- Mercy for healing (Ps 41:4)
- Mercy because of God's goodness (Ps 69:16)
- Mercy because of our confessions and repentances (Prov 28:13)

Following Jesus because of Being Called and Healed (Mark 10:49-52)

Called by Jesus (49)

- Called to belong to God (Rom 1:5-6)
- Called to one hope (Eph 4:3-6)
- Called into eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)
- Called according to God's purpose (Rom 8:28-30)
- Called into fellowship (1 Cor 1:9)
- Called to make election sure (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Obedience to call (50)

- Obedience to show faith (Gen 22:9-12)
- Obedience to witness (Acts 8:26-31)
- Obedience regardless of prejudice (Acts 10:19-23)
- Obedience to follow Jesus (Matt 9:9)

Request of healing (51)

- Requests that must be made while God is near (Isa 55:6)
- Requests that are done in humbleness and with sincerity (Luke 18:9-14)
- Requests that are persistent (Luke 11:5-8)
- Requests that are done without anxiety and presented with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6)
- Requests that are presented without doubt (James 1:6-8)

Healing by Jesus (52)

- Healing physically (Matt 14:14)
- Healing spiritually (Isa 53:5)
- Healing that proved Jesus' Divinity (Matt 11:2-5)
- Healing through Jesus' abiding (John 15:1-4)