



Sermon, Sunday March 13, 2022 "Jesus and Blind Bartimaeus"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:46-52 ⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Introduction: Why Jesus Came into the World

We hear about many incidents and accidents through recent news. Among them are the stories of people helping Ukrainian refugees at war with Russia. They work to provide shelter and food for refugees and meet their needs. There are also good hands helping those who have died or been harmed by the tornado that recently hit Central Iowa. These stories inspire us a lot.

Although wars, natural disasters, and events that we cannot comprehend continue to occur in the world in which we live, we are grateful there are good hands to help our neighbors in these circumstances. I always pray that the Church, the body of the Lord, will be at the center of those hands helping our neighbors.

Jesus says in Mark 10:45. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

But there are more people in the world who want to be served rather than to serve and sacrifice for their neighbors. Serving and sacrificing for our neighbors is not easy, so it is more precious.

Jesus is at the pinnacle of service and sacrifice for neighbors. We pray that our lives will be like Jesus'.

Body: Where does true joy in our hearts come from?

Today's text is about Jesus healing the blind Bartimaeus. The healing of Bartimaeus by Jesus is the last miracle that Jesus performed before entering Jerusalem to carry the cross.

However, the story of Jesus healing the blind Bartimaeus contrasts with Jesus' disciples, James and John, asking Jesus to sit at the left and right hands of Jesus in the time of his glory. Jesus asks the same questions of James, John, and Bartimaeus the blind. **Jesus asks the disciples in Mark 10:36. "What do you want me to do for you?" Also, Jesus asks Bartimaeus in Mark 10:51. Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?"**

Jesus teaches us what to ask of the Lord, how to ask, and how to live after we ask.

The reason Jesus does this for us is so we can enjoy true joy through serving our neighbors. The Lord taught James and John what it was to serve their neighbors, and Bartimaeus' wish was answered. But why was Bartimaeus' wish answered by Jesus?



1. Bartimaeus does know what he is asking of the Lord.

First, Bartimaeus does know what he is asking of the Lord. Look at Mark 10:51. The blind man said to Him, **"My teacher, let me see again."** Bartimaeus asked the Lord to open his eyes for him. For the blind, seeing again is a most basic need. This need is not to satisfy one's own greed, but a desire to overcome a most fundamental disability. But James and John ask that they be allowed to sit with Jesus on the throne of glory. Regarding James and John, Jesus says in Mark 10:38, **"You don't know what you are asking."**

Jesus taught His disciples about **"the kingdom of God."** This is because He wanted the disciples to continue the work of Jesus after His death on the cross. The kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus is a kingdom that is completed through service, sacrifice, and love for our neighbors. But Jesus said that the disciples do not understand the meaning of **"the kingdom of God."**

Therefore, we need to see if, like Bartimaeus, we want our fundamental flaws to be healed by Jesus. If our fundamental flaws are not healed, we will live our lives constantly asking the Lord for something to satisfy our greed. Such a life cannot enjoy the true joy of the kingdom of God that the Lord has spoken of.

May we, like Bartimaeus, have the courage to discover our greatest flaws and surrender them to the Lord.

Then, what is the second reason that Bartimaeus' wish was answered?

2. Bartimaeus asked the Lord with humility, earnestness, and faith.

Second, Bartimaeus sought the Lord with humility, earnestness, and faith. **In Mark 10:47 Bartimaeus says, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"** He humbly asks Jesus. He earnestly asks the Lord to help poor him and to have mercy on him. However, people react to Bartimaeus's request as follows; **"Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:48).**

Although people are disturbed by Bartimaeus, he does not stop. Bartimaeus thinks that his behavior could be tolerated enough to win the Lord's favor. This heart of Bartimaeus is evident in his actions. **Look at Mark 10:50. "So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus."** In this verse, it is very important that he throw away his cloak and gets up and goes to Jesus.

For Bartimaeus, the cloak serves as half to sit on, and half to cover the knee so that the coin falls there. In other words, the cloak is a very important part of Bartimaeus' life. But he forsook it and went to the Lord. The Lord sees this in Bartimaeus and says, "Your faith has made you well."

Psalm 34:10 says: "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing." Those who seek the Lord must ask with humility, earnestness, and faith, like Bartimaeus. And the lives of those who personally meet the Lord are changed.

3. Live a changed life like Bartimaeus.

After Bartimaeus was healed by Jesus, he became a disciple who followed the Lord. **"Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way."** (Mark 10:52) Bartimaeus knew how good and wonderful Jesus was. So, he followed Jesus to be with Him.

Jesus also opened our eyes. Do you see how good and wonderful the Lord is?

Why did Jesus open Bartimaeus' eyes? It is to serve our neighbors with changed eyes, read the word of the Lord, and examine ourselves well. **The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 5:13: "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."**



Conclusion: What does it mean to live as a Christian?

Now let's summarize today's sermon. What does it mean to live as a Christian? Simply put, we are walking the way Jesus walked. It is a path that can be reached through devotion, sacrifice, and love for our neighbors.

Let us not forget that the true joy we can enjoy lies in the changed image of Bartimaeus, who was outside the attention of the world, not in the image of John and James who wanted to sit at the Lord's right hand and left hand. The Lord tells us clearly. **“Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” (Mark 10:44)**

