

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

*Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019*

*[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church, Olympia, WA](#)*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- This is a simple account; only seven verse long
  - o It's the last miracle account in the Gospel of Mark
  - o It took place as Jesus, the 12, and a large crowd followed them as they made the final uphill trek to Jerusalem
  - o Jesus will be dead in little over one week
- Mark likes irony:
  - o (1) James and John, the men who've been with living with God the Son incarnate for three years, just demonstrated how immature they are (Mk 10:37); how blind they are to their own responsibilities
  - o (2) While Bartimaeus, the blind beggar who's never met Jesus (only heard about Him), "sees" the truth and shows more maturity than James and John!
  - o (3) Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, has faith in Jesus and chooses to follow Him, while the religious authorities in Jerusalem (in the next chapter) plot to kill Him
- Bartimaeus is a model disciple; not because he's perfect – but because he shows us what the way a true believer should act
- There are eight things you can learn about Jesus and about being a Christ-follower from this account:

### **TEXT**

#### **1. It doesn't matter who you are**

*And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside (Mk 10:46).*

- Bartimaeus was a beggar
  - o He wasn't one by choice; he was blind!
  - o His family either didn't care or wasn't able to help him
  - o There was no government safety net
- Jesus didn't care!
  - o **Anyone** can come to Jesus

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019

[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church, Olympia, WA](#)

- Education, money, family, past sins, class (etc.) are all meaningless
- You're a person made in God's image, and you have intrinsic dignity, worth and value – you're someone worth His time
- There are no such things as:
  - (1) someone who's got it so made that he doesn't need Jesus
  - (2) or someone who's so far gone, or so "insignificant," that she isn't worth Jesus' time
    - Jesus has room for you!

### **2. You have to ask Jesus for mercy**

*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!" (Mk 10:47).*

- Bartimaeus asked Jesus to have **mercy**, **pity** or **compassion** on him
- That's the only thing you can come to Jesus with
  - (1) He doesn't care who your parents are
    - He judges you on your own merits
  - (2) He doesn't care how important your job is
    - Someone else is waiting to take over when you're gone, and you'll soon be forgotten
  - (3) He doesn't care how much money you make
    - You can't take it with you
  - (4) He doesn't care how many degrees you have
    - He has more
- He doesn't care about any of that – if you come to Jesus with chips like those on your shoulder, everything you have to say goes right into his spam folder
- The only thing Jesus will hear is something to the effect of, "Jesus, have pity on me!"<sup>1</sup>
  - (1) **Mercy:** "I don't deserve your grace, but I'm begging for it anyway!"
  - (2) **Pity:** "I don't deserve your attention, but please have sympathy and sorrow for who I am and where I'm at!"

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<sup>1</sup> The word is capable of either of these three meanings (mercy, compassion, or pity), but it really depends on what you think Bartimaeus was saying. Did he ask Jesus to have mercy on him, because he was a sinner? Or, was he asking for pity and compassion? The first option is too technical and out of step with the flow of the account. I think *compassion* is the real crux of his plea.

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

*Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019*

*[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church, Olympia, WA](#)*

- **(3) Compassion:** “I don’t deserve any favor from you, but please consider helping me out of this hole I’ve got myself into!”
- All of this presupposes you know you’re nothing, and God is everything
  - **(1) Jesus:** “**Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for [the kingdom of God is made up of people just like this]. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it,**” (Mk 10:14-15; addition is my translation)
  - **(2) Children:** come with nothing but baggage, and bring nothing to the table – **so do people who come to Christ for salvation!**
- You can only come to Jesus if you come begging for His mercy

### **3. You have to know who Jesus is**

*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!” (Mk 10:47).*

- Every generation likes to make Jesus into its own image<sup>2</sup>
  - **(1)** The Puritan Jesus was very stern, very stiff, very theological, very into discipline and self-denial
  - **(2)** The Victorian Jesus was meek, mild, a bit feminine, more touchy-feeley
  - **(3)** The Revisionist Jesus at the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century (and still today) just wants us to be nice to each other, clean up society, and would never punish anyone
  - **(4)** The 1970s “Jesus People” Jesus was different still
  - **(5)** The right-wing Jesus who’s a member of the Republican Party and whose heavenly father is Ronald Reagan is alive and well, today!
- The real Jesus is someone defined by the Bible, and Bartimaeus knew who He was:
  - He’d heard about Jesus, probably second-hand
  - He heard Jesus of Nazareth was coming, and he began shouting out for mercy – **and what did he call Jesus?**
    - He called Jesus the “Son of David”
  - **What does that mean, to a Jewish man?**

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<sup>2</sup> See Stephen J. Nichols, *Jesus Made in America: A Cultural History from the Puritans to the Passion of the Christ* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2008).

## The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)

Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019

[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church](#), Olympia, WA

- (1) It means Jesus is the descendant of David, the one who the prophet Nathan said would rule over all creation
  - (2) It means Jesus is the coming King, the Messiah
  - (3) It means Bartimaeus knew who Jesus was, who He actually was, and accepted it!
- You can't get to a destination without an address, and you can't get to Jesus unless you know who you're coming to
    - (1) Do you acknowledge Him as Lord?
    - (2) Do you acknowledge Him as King
    - (3) Do you acknowledge Him as God
    - (4) Do you bow your knee to Him, as your Lord, God and King?
  - All this is implicit in the title Bartimaeus gave Jesus; is it there in your own confession, in your mind, right now?

### 4. You have to ignore people who try to stop you

*And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mk 10:48).*

- Sometimes people try to stand in the way, to stop you from coming to Jesus
  - Sometimes it's by friends and family who are well-meaning, but mistaken
  - Other times it's by people who know what they're doing, and don't want you to become a Christian
  - Either way, in order to come to Jesus, you have to be willing to endure and ignore people who try to stop you
- Many examples:
  - (1) Elymas' actions against Paul and Barnabas on Cyprus: **"Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith," (Acts 13:8)**
    - Deliberate
  - (2) Paul about the "foolishness" of what Christians preach (read 1 Co 1:20-25)
    - General mockery
  - (3) Jesus' own family thought He was insane (read Mk 3:21, 31-35)
    - Well-meaning concern

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

*Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019*

*[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church](#), Olympia, WA*

- **What did Bartimaeus do when a well-meaning crowd tried to shut him up, so he'd leave Jesus alone?**
  - o **And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mk 10:48).**
  - o You have to love Christ so much that you don't care what people say to you about it!

### **5. Jesus always responds to those who call**

*And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus (Mk 10:49-50).*

- Whoever you are, whatever you've done, Jesus will respond to you:
  - o (1) if you know who He is,
  - o (2) if you know who you are, and
  - o (3) if you call out to Him for mercy
- Examples:
  - o Ps 86:15: **But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**
  - o **Read Ps 145:1-9**
- Jesus responded when Bartimaeus called him:
  - o (1) when he **kept confessing** Jesus as the promised Son of David,
  - o (2) when he **kept refusing** to listen to the crowd and be silent
  - o (3) and Jesus can respond to you, too!

### **6. You have to come for restoration, not glory**

*And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight," (Mk 10:51).*

- **What did Bartimaeus want from Jesus?**
  - o When Jesus asked James and John that question, they said they wanted cushy political appointments (**And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us**

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

*Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019*

*[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church](#), Olympia, WA*

**to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory,”**  
**Mk 10:36-37).**

- e.g. [ambassadors](#) to Belgium, Austria, Australia, Denmark, France, Monaco (non-civil service = political appointee)
- **What did Bartimaeus want from Jesus?**
  - He didn't want self-glorification
  - He didn't want a political appointment as an ambassador to Belgium
  - **He wanted restoration**
- **Read Isa 35:1-10** (briefly elaborate, **esp. vv.5-6, 7-10**)
  - **(1)** Bartimaeus knew The Messiah would come
  - **(2)** He knew the Messiah was standing in front of him, asking him what he wanted
  - **(3)** He knew the proof of Messiah's reign would be a reversal of the curse; a reformation and restoration of Garden of Eden 1.0
  - **(4)** So, he asked Jesus to heal him and make him whole
- Bartimaeus did this for the same reason that, if you're a Christian:
  - **(1)** you look forward to the day when you stand face to face with Jesus,
  - **(2)** in a renewed and restored physical body,
  - **(3)** the pain and infirmities of age gone forever,
  - **(4)** where sickness and death have been abolished for all time!
- A real disciple doesn't come to Jesus with a shopping list
- A real disciple comes to Jesus for restoration and reformation
  - **(1)** "Here I am,
  - **(2)** I'm a mess,
  - **(3)** and only you can fix me,
  - **(4)** so please have mercy on me!"
- **If Jesus asked you this morning, "what do you want me to do for you?"**
  - **(1)** what would you say?
  - **(2)** would you ask for reformation and restoration, or
  - **(3)** would you ask to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Monaco?

## **7. Faith is the channel for salvation**

*And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well" (Mk 10:52)*

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

*Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019*

*[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church, Olympia, WA](#)*

- Jesus healed Bartimaeus because he had faith
- What is “faith?”
  - o (1) It isn't deliberately believing something without evidence
  - o (2) It isn't leap in the dark in contradiction to the evidence
  - o (3) It is trust and allegiance based on evidence
- Bartimaeus had trust and allegiance, fidelity, to Jesus of Nazareth
  - o (1) He heard about Him
  - o (2) He believed the message
  - o (3) He believed Jesus was the Messiah:
    - the **Son of God** and the **Son of Man**,
    - the **priest** who'd **Reconcile** God's people to Him,
    - the **prophet** who'd **Reveal** God and the Christian faith and message to the world,
    - and the **king** who'd **Rule** over all creation and all His people
- Bartimaeus' faith, his trust and allegiance in Jesus, is what saved him
  - o It's the only thing that can save you, too
- So:
  - o (1) surrender and lay down your figurative arms,
  - o (2) and come to Jesus for mercy,
  - o (3) and you'll find Him to be a perfect and compassionate Savior!

### **8. You have to follow Jesus**

*And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way (Mk 10:52).*

- Bartimaeus followed Jesus “on the way,” which means he became a disciple<sup>3</sup>
- The natural result of salvation is to follow Jesus;
  - o (1) the one who opened your eyes,
  - o (2) changed your heart,
  - o (3) and rescued you from spiritual slavery
  - o EX: [George W. Bush's response](#) during the 1999 Iowa caucus' to a question about who his “favorite philosopher” was:

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<sup>3</sup> The word could simply mean “on the road,” as if Bartimaeus just followed Jesus on the way to Jerusalem. But, it could also mean he followed Jesus in His way of life (i.e. His message and its implications). I believe the context suggests this meaning.

## **The Model Disciple (Mk 10:46-52)**

*Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019*

*[Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church](#), Olympia, WA*

- **Bush:** “Christ, because he changed my heart.”
  - **Interviewer:** “I think the viewer would like to know more about how he has changed your heart.”
  - **Bush:** “Well, if they don’t know it’s going to be hard to explain! When you turn your heart and life over to Christ ... When you accept Christ as the Savior, it changes your heart. And that’s what He did for me!”
- Examples:
- Paul: **“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised,”** (2 Cor 5:14-15)
    - (1) Do you have a desire to live for Him, which means you view yourself as a vessel to be used for whatever He wants?
    - (2) Not in an artificial, abstract way – but in a real way?
    - (3) Not in a “big” way, but in an ordinary way?
  - Paul: **“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test,”** (1 Cor 13:5-6)
    - (1) Do you examine yourself?
    - (2) Do you test yourself?
    - (3) What do you find in your heart and mind?

## **CONCLUSION**

- I hope you find that Christ is there, that He changed your heart, and that you want to serve Him with your life
- If not, you can join the family today
  - and, just like He did for Bartimaeus,
  - Jesus will respond if you call out for mercy

***Blessing (1 Cor 16:23-24): The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen***