

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-52

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 29:18

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many 2"x 8" construction paper strips as the number of children in your class, sequins, stickers, markers, crayons and other assorted supplies for decorating the strips, and round objects for tracing.

Tape, blocks, and as many small prizes (stickers, erasers, pencils, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Paper Watches

Cut construction paper in 2"x8" strips. Provide sequins, stickers, markers, crayons and other assorted supplies for decorating the watches. Supply round objects so the children can trace circles on the strip of paper for a watch face. Show them how a watch has a long and short hand and numbers if they do not already know.

Talk to the children about being busy and the importance of taking time for others. Tell them that **Jesus always has time for us**. Tape or paste the watches on the children's arms as a reminder of today's lesson.

LESSON TIME!

Did you ever want something so badly, so desperately, that you asked for it over and over and over again? You did not give up asking. Three things can happen when you ask and ask for something; what do you think they are? You can be told “Yes,” “No,” or “Later.”

Today we will learn about a time when someone came to Jesus with a request. They were very persistent. What do you think Jesus did? Let’s find out what He did in our story today. **Jesus always has time for us.**

MARK 10:46

Then they came to Jericho. And as He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

It was common to see beggars near the rich city of Jericho. Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. Jesus knew He would soon suffer and die on the cross for our sins. He had just finished having a very serious talk with His disciples about being a servant and about suffering. Their conversation on the road was about these very important and serious things.

While the disciples and Jesus were walking, a great crowd was walking along with them, probably people on their way to the Passover in Jerusalem. The street was busy and noisy. Jesus had been explaining some very important things to His followers. By the side of the road sat a beggar. Beggars were not uncommon and would normally not draw much attention, but this beggar becomes the center of attention.

MARK 10:47-48

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!"

Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

We know the beggar was a man named Bartimaeus. He had heard from the crowd that Jesus was coming. That excited this blind beggar! He may have been blind and poor, but he knew that Jesus could help him. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah (the One sent from God)! He called Jesus the "Son of David," which was a well-known Messianic title. He asked Jesus for mercy. In other words, He was saying "Jesus I know who You are, and I believe in You. I believe You can save me!"

There were many who told the blind man to be quiet. They may have thought that Jesus was too busy to pay attention to a poor beggar. But Bartimaeus only cried louder. He was not going to give up. He did not want to miss his chance to be healed by Jesus. Jesus might not walk by him again. He did not let the crowd discourage him from Jesus. He knew the truth, and he would not miss out on receiving Jesus' touch. So he kept crying out for Jesus.

Busy Beavers

Tape off a large circle with a smaller circle inside it on the floor. Connect the two circles with one line. Put blocks in a tub outside the circle. Have one volunteer be the builder beaver while the rest participate as busy beavers.

The builder beaver must stay in the center circle and build a tower of blocks as quickly as possible (you may even want to time him to add to the pressure). The busy beavers must continually walk along the outside circle. One busy beaver may take one block at a time from the tub, only after the last busy beaver has given his block to the builder beaver. The builder beaver can only take one block at a time from the busy beavers and only at the marked line that connects the two circles. This should prove difficult for the busy beavers and frustrating for the builder beaver.

Have several children take a turn at being the builder beaver. As a reward for their perseverance, allow them the privilege of passing out a small prize.

Explain to the class that it can be frustrating to have needs that must be met by others, especially when it is difficult to get cooperation from them.

MARK 10:49-50

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

Then the most wonderful thing happened; Jesus stopped His journey and stood still. He told the people to bring Bartimaeus to Him. Being blind, Bartimaeus did not know Jesus had stopped or called for him. The crowd let him know. They said, "Cheer up! Jesus heard you! He wants you. Get up Bartimaeus and go to Him." What music to Bartimaeus' ears. He threw aside his garment and went to Jesus. He had probably had

his coat spread out for people to throw coins into it as he begged. Now he moved that away and hurried to Jesus!

Jesus was on His journey towards the cross. He knew that everyone who ever lived needed His cleansing blood to be set free from sin and open the doors to heaven. He had much to do and think about, yet He stood still and called for a blind beggar to come to Him. **Jesus always has time for us.**

Jesus is the King of Kings, the Creator of the universe, and the Majestic Lord of Lords, yet He took time to stop. He was teaching his disciples what it means to be a servant of all. He said in Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus loved blind Bartimaeus and took the time to meet his needs. We are all blind beggars, yet Jesus has time to stop and care for us.

You may think, "I'm not blind!" But even if our eyes can see our hearts are in darkness and blind before Jesus. Our spiritual life is blind and poor. We all need the touch of Jesus, and the wonderful news is that **Jesus always has time for us.**

MARK 10:51-52

So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Jesus asks Bartimaeus what seems like a strange question to ask a blind man. Jesus knew exactly what Bartimaeus needed. He was giving Bartimaeus an opportunity to express his personal faith in Jesus. This time Bartimaeus called Him "Rabboni," which means Lord. He was acknowledging Jesus as his Lord. He believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah and wanted Him to be the Lord and Master of his life. Jesus saw his faith and saved him; He healed him!

His spiritual eyes were opened as well as his physical eyes. Jesus loved him enough to stop and care for him! Jesus loves you enough to meet with you anytime. Acts 2:21 says, "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." **Jesus always has time for us.** Bartimaeus knew he was desperate, blind and poor without Jesus, and he began to follow after Jesus from the time he was saved.

The true condition of our spirit and life is desperate, blind and poor without Jesus. We can do what Bartimaeus did. We can say, "I can't see; I need you to help me Jesus!" When Jesus saves, we must follow Him like Bartimaeus did! How do we follow Jesus? We seek Him in prayer and in His Word, and we ask Him to accomplish His will in our lives.

Proverbs 3:5-7 says: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil."

We follow Jesus by seeking Him for the what, where and how of life. We follow Jesus by seeking to honor and please Him more than anyone else. We follow Him by obeying His commands and believing His promises. We draw near to Him through obedience, prayer and His Word as He draws near to us. **Jesus always has time for us.** We follow Him by always having time for Him.

Timed Relay

Make a short sequence of tasks such as: pick up a block, touch the door, hop three times, put the block in a bucket, go back to the starting place, etc. Divide the class into two teams and time them to see which team wins.

Ask the children if it sometimes seems as if the grown ups around them seem to be as busy as their timed relay. Tell them that Jesus was very busy on the road out of Jericho, but he took time to stop for Bartimaeus. **Jesus always has time for us.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the unlimited access we have to Him. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.