

10152023 I was Blind But Now I See...We need our sight...but we absolutely need Insight....

Back story...Jesus has just allowed the most "desirable" potential disciple (the rich young ruler) to escape without chasing after him to keep him...who does not work hard to keep the obvious best candidates to join the discipleship team? Or any other team? Who does not want the best players?...in fact Jesus made it difficult for him...

NLT Luke 18:22 he said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²³ *But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.*

To follow Jesus requires you stay close to him....so there is no room for anything between you and him...And this guy's stuff was in the way...his loyalty was to it...he had the worst kind of blindness... he was blind when it came to insight... he was myopic he was near sighted... not able to see clearly** things that are in the future ... *His myopic refusal to act now will undoubtedly cause problems in the future...but he could not see it...he was blind in the most devastating way...he had no insight....***

Jesus **saw this in him...for his eye sight and in sight is perfect!**

So the people respond... *NLT Luke18: 24 When Jesus saw this, he said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!*

18:26 Those who heard this said, "Then who in the world can be saved?" ²⁷ *He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God."*

The people thought as we often do now...success now means success in the future... failure now means failure in the future.

That the most desirable person to be part of the Kingdom of God is already successful, with little to clean up in their lives, and add to that wealth, religious, successful, prominent, celebrity, and with some power...you got a winner!! how could Jesus let someone like that get away?

Peter Jumped on that statement... to inform Jesus that he and the other disciples are following him...does this great future apply to them....

NLT Luke 18:28 Peter said, "We've left our homes to follow you."

29 "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, ³⁰ will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

- And then assures his disciples that to follow him often comes with a high price tag...it is unconditional....loyalty to Him!
- **You cannot follow anyone else, including you or anything including possessions ...no one or and no thing can hold a higher place in your life than Jesus...or you are not really following him...you are on a walk with him...and that is not good enough because it will fail you at some point....**
- And that loyalty and commitment to him...will be repaid many times over....in this life... you will live a life of meaning in these bodies.....and you will live eternally with new bodies, and you will rule with him forever! With great riches

- **Today We will see what is impossible for man...to grasp as the requirement for salvation...is absolutely possible for God...**

NLT Luke 18:31 Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. ³² He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. ³³ They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again.” ³⁴ But they didn’t understand any of this. The significance of his words was hidden from them, and they failed to grasp what he was talking about.

- **After revealing this purpose in his life and in his body to his disciples, for going to Jerusalem, where he would be crucified, buried, and on the third day rise from the dead. To pave the way to this eternal life... and accomplish the goal of reuniting humans to God that they may live with him eternally...**
- **They are following Jesus but don’t get his plans...much like us...but they will later...much like us**

None the less Jesus continues with his plan...does not seem to care if they get it or not...follow him !

- 1. And as usual he uses circumstances and situations along the road of life to teach lessons...about the Kingdom**
- 2. He will gain a disciple who would never be considered in the natural ...one could even say it would be impossible for this person to follow Jesus...after all he is blind...he has a bondage he cannot free himself from it is impossible ...**

But that is exactly what Jesus said earlier...about choosing disciples...often those who people write off...are the ones Jesus writes their names in the book of life!

Lets pick up the narrative...

*NLT 18:35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. ³⁶ When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him that **Jesus the Nazarene** was going by.*

NLT Mark 10:46 Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road.

➤ **IT WAS the Passover season, and many were journeying in the same direction with Jesus --toward Jerusalem. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sat by the wayside, hoping to receive charity from the passersby. An unusual commotion was created as Jesus passed, and Bartimaeus inquired the cause. The answer was that **Jesus the Nazarene** had just passed by.**

NLT Luke 18: 37 They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. ³⁸ So he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”³⁹ “Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

➤ **Bartimaeus obviously had heard that Jesus was the reputed Messiah ...from the comings and going of people through Jericho...a common town pssed through on the way to and from Jerusalem...**

➤ **He had heard that Jesus was performing cures, healing the sick, casting out demons and opening the eyes of the blind.**

- **Bartimaeus had obviously made his decision who Jesus was ...To call someone "Son of David" as a title is equivalent to calling someone, "Messiah," for it signifies to the Jews a person who is the promised descendent of David who will sit upon the throne of Israel**
- **It is not what the crowd believed. They merely called him Jesus of Nazareth.**
- **Oh, he thought, Why did not some one tell me while He was passing!**
- **So he shouts Jesus Son of David have Mercy on me**

The Lord had already passed Bartimaeus by, not heeding him,

- **Be quiet! Make less noise! Do not interrupt the Great Teacher; He is talking with others, said the passersby. The people first of all told Bartimaeus... keep quiet; ... he does not want to hear you...**
- **But Bartimaeus felt that it was now or never with him; Jesus is near...he certainly is not able to go to him in his condition...he lifted his voice above that of the multitude, and shouted more loudly than ever, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!"**
- **Bartimaeus had obviously made his decision who Jesus was ...To call someone "Son of David" as a title is equivalent to calling someone, "Messiah," for it signifies to the Jews a person who is the promised descendent of David who will sit upon the throne of Israel**
- **It is not what the crowd believed. They merely called him Jesus of Nazareth. He referred to him as the Messiah....**
- **Jesus heard the voice, and ever ready to be gracious to those who call for mercy, He bade the blind man come to Him...just as he was ...a blind beggar**

NLT Luke 18:40 When Jesus **heard him**, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him,

NLT Mark:10:49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" ⁵⁰ Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

- **Was Bartimaeus in trouble? , even if he was it would be no more than normal...no more than normal...as a blind man living in Jericho. He would sit along the road, day after day, doing the same thing and basically getting the same result.**
- **Probably enough change to just get by day by day...survival**
- **He was doing the best he can.....with what he had...**

But he had one thing... great in-sight....he recognized who Jesus was 'Jesus, Son of David, and he knew he could help him...have mercy on me...but having mercy on him could simply meangive him money...or a blessing...a coat...food...housing? Maybe healing

➤ ***So Jesus asked him***

NLT Luke 18:41 "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "I want to see!"

- **The word translated "see" or "receive my sight" is Greek *anablepo*, " means to gain sight, whether for the first time someone boran that way or again, 'regain sight.' Something happened...**
- **It is a good question... You might think that it is obvious.**
- **The fact is, some people do NOT really want to be healed – a blessing, a prayer, perhaps, but not real healing.**
- **They are uncomfortable with their condition but the familiarity of their condition and the life it has led them to live... and they**

have created a way to endure...survival has become their lifestyle...and their used to it...

- Yes, of course, they want to be healed at one level, but they may have become dependent on the life they have and are not willing to give up that dependence for something better, even if Jesus would offer it to them.
- Just like the rich man who was dependent on life his wealth has created...sick people can become dependent on the life their sickness has created.
- To be healed" can be scary...what would my life look like if I am healed? Everything has to change...
- But Bartimaeus decided he didn't want to stay where he was. He wasn't content with where he was....but that would require doing a new level of BEST ...because healing would bring a whole new set of challenges...are you 100% sure you want that Bartimaeus???
- Bartimaeus may have prayed for his life to be different, but to have a different life he would need sight and sight was just the first step...to a different life...
- Listen everyone has some need of healing in their life...but not everyone is 100% sure they want to do what is required to be actually healed?

Healing requires us to own our lives in a new way...Bartimaeus can no longer "blame" his blindness for his life style...

- It is now on him? To make the changes in his life that sight would afford him....

Ownership is freedom!!! How?? I get out of the blame game. the procrastination game the stuck in the rut mentality...I become free to engage a scary but new future...Do I want that 100%

- But it would take the impossible to make that happen...a miracle to restore sight...

- So he asked the impossible of the one whom he believed could deliver...”I want to see”

Some do not even know they are blind...just because they have sight...but they are blind in a worse way they have no in-sight...

- They cant picture a different future...this blind , beggar could...

⁴² And Jesus said, “All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

- *The word translated "healed" (NIV) or "saved" (KJV) is Greek **sozo**. This is a general word that means "to preserve or rescue from natural dangers and afflictions, 'save, keep from harm, preserve, rescue."*
- He had his eyesight restored because of his faith, because he cried out, because he would not listen to those who sought to still his voice and turn aside his faith.
- Bartimaeus jumped right into the next step...into action immediately ... right into his new life... **I will go the way you are going.... Son of David Messiah!! This faith would indeed save him...and lead him into a new life...**
- He might not have had understanding or sight regarding why this blindness had happened to him...it was his lot in life...but he had insight to see he could help him....some have eye sight but no insight...

What is so special about Bartimaeus' faith? He had no outer sight but he had 20/20 insight... and the insight would lead to his outer sight...it is always with Jesus an inside out work...first see on the inside...then you will see it come to pass on the outside

His insight led him to two decisions...

- 1. He believed Jesus could do it for he was the promised Son of David.....he could change his impossible condition thereby change his life...because he had the power...**
- 2. He wanted a specific healing...and a change in the way he did life... it would change his whole life and destiny...he needed to see to have it...is there something in you that needs healing ...a change that is hindering you from following Jesus?**

end

√ NLT Dan 7: 18 But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever."

NLT Dan 7:27 Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him."

With new Bodies on the earth...forever...eternally

NLT 2 Corinthians 5:4 While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

➤ **Eternally...past this life...**

NLT Revelation 21:3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

then he tells them his cost to make this destiny come to pass.....

- (2 Samuel 7:11-16; 1 Chronicles 17:9-14; 22:1-19; 2 Chronicles 6:5-17; 13:5; 21:7; Psalm 89:19-37; Isaiah 16:5; 22:20-25; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15-26; Luke 1:32-33).
- If you don't count the phrase that appears in Jesus' genealogy (Luke 3:31), this is the first time in Luke that the term "Son of David" is used.
- **This is what Bartimaeus believed. It is not what the crowd believed. They merely called him Jesus of Nazareth.**

Bartimaeus was not to proud to yell for help...I believe that is what hinders many people from being healed of different things...They are too proud to ask for help."



➤ **He has healed others, might I not be one of the favored ones?**

Now he pauses on his journey for the social outcast of a person who depends on others' kindness for his very survival...what a contrast from the rich young ruler...a man who has nothing to offer... The Lord had already passed Bartimaeus by, not heeding him, not offering to heal him. His faith and hope flamed up; and he shouted, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!"

He recognized what the Angel Gabriel said to Mary Luke 1:31-33 New Living Translation³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel^[a] forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

*****So he did what he could...he took action... one action...he acted on that belief...that is called Faith...**

1. He cried out.....Jesus Son of David have mercy on me...he knew he was not owed anything...so he asked for mercy...compassion, forgiveness, sympathy,

Luke 18:43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

- **The once-blind man now becomes a disciple and joins Jesus' band. The word translated "followed" is *akoloutheo*, the characteristic word that means "to follow someone as a disciple, accompany."**
- **The word is in the Imperfect tense, indicating continued action ("was following") or continuous action begun in the past ("began to follow," the inceptive or ingressive Imperfect)**

He went from a blind beggar to a disciple...immediately...

Some people are intimidated and subdued by their own handicaps. It's possible to almost give up. But not Blind Bartimaeus.

So what about us...

- 1. Perhaps like Bartimaeus...we are not in crisis mode...but we need a change...
we need the impossible to happen...for us to move forward in life...Jesus son of David have mercy on me**
- 2. Perhaps the change needed is to become a disciple of Jesus...perhaps we have never asked Jesus to be our Lord?**
- 3. Perhaps like Bartimaeus you are simply blind to that fact....
And we think our ailment is the real problem**
- 4. Jesus wanted to do far more in his life than just heal him...he made him and heir to the Kingdom of God...**
- 5. Do you know you're an heir of the Kingdom of God?**
- 6. Well first you must ask for mercy...from Jesus**

- 7. Bartimaous did not let him pass him by...lets not let him pass you by.... ask for sight to see and follow him...**
- 8. Lets pray...**

End

This is the perspective of humility. This is the perspective of the person who has run headlong into their own limitations and has been knocked to the ground by the encounter. Bartimaeus had been knocked down by his blindness. The disciples would not be knocked to the ground until the end of the next week when Jesus would be arrested and they would flee, even after promising to stand by Jesus even unto death, when they would see all their hopes for greatness dying on a wooden cross.

We have not known humility until we have stared our own limitations in the face. Not by simply acknowledging that they exist but by running headlong into them and being forced to cry out like Bartimaeus -- "Son of David, have mercy upon me!" This is the moment that marks the beginning of salvation -- the moment when we realize our own blindness, our own blindness, our own desperate condition, our own inability to save ourselves -- our realization that we too need a savior.

That moment is the time that our faith in ourselves dies. We always believed that we could, but then one day we discover we can't. It is the moment that leads either to despair or to joy. If we have no God outside of ourselves, we face despair -- I can't do it, and if I am the ultimate force in the universe, there is no hope. Psychology books will tell you that the root of despair is self-centeredness.

But, if we do believe in a God outside of ourselves, a God that is greater and beyond us, the moment that our own failings and human limitations knock us senseless is the moment that gives birth to faith to faith.

There was no need for us to have been blind, we only had to be willing to see through someone else's eyes.

Jesus is passing through the city this morning. What will you ask of him? To sit on his right hand or his left, demanding his service as James and John did, or will you cry out for his mercy like Bartimaeus? Are we ready to acknowledge that there's something -- anything -- that we can't do -- that we need help -- that Jesus can give us what **we need in this hour?**
How silly we must seem.

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NLT Mark 10:46 Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. ⁴⁷ When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here."

So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" ⁵⁰ Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.[Ⓜ]

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LK 18:28 Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

LK 18:29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."

- Jesus has just allowed the most "desirable" potential disciple (the rich young ruler) to escape without being saved. And then assures his disciples that the changes required to follow him often come with a high price tag... but they would be well compensated for their efforts and faithfulness...
- Now he pauses on his journey for the social outcast of a person who depends on others' kindness for his very survival. What a contrast!

LK 18:35 *As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.*³⁶ *When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.*³⁷ *They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."*

MK 10:46 *Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, **Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus)**, was sitting by the roadside begging.*

LK 18:38 *He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

LK 18:39 *Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

MK 10:46 *Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging.*⁴⁷ *When he heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth**, he began to shout, "**Jesus, Son of David**, have mercy on me!"*

MK 10:48 *Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

LK 18:40 *Jesus stopped and **ordered** the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,*

MK 10:49 *Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."*

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

➤ **But when Jesus called him, the others joined in giving words of encouragement and in helping the blind man to the Savior. We need to be HELPERS, NOT HINDERERS**

- The latter action should represent the course of all who are the Lord's people. They should encourage the blind, the marginalized--all who are out of the way-- to come to the Savior, to realize that He is indeed gracious and willing to save them from their blindness.
- Bartimaeus was a poor blind man. He was of no importance in society. Many people like Bartimaeus would not think that the *Messiah would bother with them. let alone go to them...
- **But Jesus had time for Bartimaeus, although this was Jesus' final journey! We can always speak to Jesus about our troubles and difficulties. He will listen to us. He has time, even if nobody else has time.**
- His cloak would be one of his few possessions...he gladly threw it away to answer the call of Jesus...

Luke 18:41 *"What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.*

MK 10:51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

LK 18:42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

MK 10:52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

- his is the bottom line...he really truly loves people...you and I not just as one of his children..but you specifically...
- he loved the tax collector...specifically
- he loved the children...each one specifically
- he loved the blind man specifically

He loves you specifically God loves me, not because of who I am, but because of who He is. Growing up always feeling the need to please, and got a sense of being loved because of what I did, it was a hard concept for me to accept that God loves me because of who HE is and has nothing to do with me. we have to set aside our emotions and our feelings and acknowledge what God has said about Himself and His relationship to us. Instead we focus on the God who loves the unlovable. It's just His nature to do so.

Son of David, Have Mercy on Me! (18:38-39)

What motivates his irrepressible clamor for healing? Faith.

These words are also shouted by the crowds during the Triumphal entry that follows Jesus' healing of Bartimaeus by only a few days.

"The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!'"

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9; see also 21:15)

During most of his ministry, Jesus doesn't encourage others to refer to him as the Messiah, because the political implications of this title would soon prevent him from being able to minister effectively (Matthew 16:16, 20). But now his hour is come. His face is set towards Jerusalem where he will be crucified, in large part for his unwillingness to renounce the title of "Christ" and "king of the Jews" (Luke 23:2-3, 35; Mark 14:61-62).

Bartimaeus' request for mercy uses the same words that other beggars. But this beggar's address to Jesus is startling. When he asks the "Son of David" for mercy, he is expecting far more than money. And he has faith that the Son of David, the Messiah, will grant his request.

What Do You Want Me to Do for You? (18:40-42)

"Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

'Lord, I want to see,' he replied." (18:40-42)

I find it fascinating that Jesus asks the man what he wants. You might think that it is obvious. The word translated "see" (NIV) or "receive my sight" (KJV) is Greek *anablepo*, "to gain sight, whether for the first time or again, 'regain sight.'" [7] The same word is used in verse 42, where Jesus commands Bartimaeus, literally, "Regain your sight!" and verse 43 describing the result. The blind beggar is very clear what he wants: to regain his sight!

But why does Jesus ask the obvious? I can think of two reasons: (1) to energize faith and cause it to be vocalized, or (2) to help the person himself determine what he wanted from Jesus. This question is nearly unique Jesus' ministry. The only parallel is at the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus asks the paralyzed man, "Do you want to get well? (Greek *hygies*, 'healthy, sound')" (John 5:6b). The man's answer seems to indicate that he does.

I believe that Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you?" can be useful for us, his disciples, in our own ministry to people. John Wimber, founder of Vineyard Christian Fellowship, encouraged use of this question -- "How do you want us to pray for you?" or "What do you want Jesus to do for you?" -- as part of a brief fact-gathering interview before praying for a person. He taught his prayer teams to listen both to the person and to the voice of God's Spirit in determining how to minister.[8]

(18:42b).

Your Faith Has Saved You (18:42)

"Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.' " (18:42)

Jesus speaks a word, a command for healing, and the healing takes place immediately, in this case. Matthew's account of this miracle adds a couple of small points. He mentions a second blind man that was healed at the same time, and the fact that "Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes." Was it the touch or the word that healed? Does it matter? Sometimes Jesus touches only. Other times he touches with a word. At other times he only speaks a word. There is no strict pattern we must follow in our own healing ministry -- only to listen to God and the person, and be agents of what God wants to do for that person, whatever that is.

The word translated "healed" (NIV) or "saved" (KJV) is Greek *sozo*. This is a general word that means "to preserve or rescue from natural dangers and afflictions, 'save, keep from harm, preserve, rescue." It can have the special use "save or free from disease," used as early as Hippocrates (Matthew 9:21, 9:22; Mark 5:23, 28, 34; 6:56; 10:52; Luke 8:36, 48; 17:19; Acts 4:9; 14:9; James 5:15). It can also mean "save or free from possession by hostile spirits." [9]

What is so special about Bartimaeus' faith? Once he hears that Jesus is there, he immediately begins to ask mercy of Jesus as Messiah, exhibiting insight into Jesus' true mission. But he also has an unstoppable faith, a faith that won't take no for an answer. The crowd tells him to shut up, and he calls out all the louder. People are embarrassed as the local beggar goes ballistic when Jesus comes to town, but Bartimaeus doesn't care. He has an intensity of desire that overcomes obstacles, rebuke, and embarrassment to achieve what he desires. Jesus is pleased.

Why does Jesus emphasize the recipient's faith time after time? Notice that Jesus doesn't emphasize or point to his own power, as some modern-day healers seem to. He gives glory to God and often points to the faith of the person who is healed. This is to encourage their faith even more. He's saying, "See what your faith in God is able to do?" The next time they come to a seemingly impossible experience, they are more likely to pray with faith themselves, rather than call in the resident healer.

Jesus is a bridge to the Father, always pointing people to a relationship with the Father. Jesus is not trying to make people dependent upon him. But he is teaching them to trust God on their own. Many can see Jesus only, but Jesus keeps encouraging their faith and pointing them to the invisible Father (see John 16:23-28). We disciples also can serve as bridges for people. At first, they are often VERY dependent upon us. We shouldn't be afraid of that, but not seek it. Rather we see it as a stage of faith. Our goal is to help transfer their faith in us to faith in their Heavenly Father. Only when we have achieved this have we succeeded, only then have we become like Jesus.

Praising God and Following (18:43)

"Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God." (18:43)

The result of the healing is immediately apparent. The adverb translated "immediately" is Greek *parachrema*, "pertaining to a point of time that is immediately subsequent to an action, 'at once, immediately.'" [10]

The once-blind man now becomes a disciple and joins Jesus' band. The word translated "followed" is *akoloutheo*, the characteristic word that means "to follow someone as a disciple, accompany." [11] The word is in the Imperfect tense, indicating continued action ("was following") or continuous action begun in the past ("began to follow," the inceptive or ingressive Imperfect)

The demonized man of the Garasenes whom Jesus healed "begged to go with him," but Jesus told him to stay with his people and be a witness to them (8:38-39). It wouldn't surprise me if the demonized man -- now freed -- had some behaviors that still needed changing before he was ready for public ministry. But Bartimaeus is ready. He is a man of faith, and is more than ready to leave off begging and take up giving to others.

I expect Bartimaeus serves a tremendous encouragement to others. When newcomers ask about Jesus, the disciples point to Bartimaeus and say, "Jesus healed him of blindness, you know!" Full of praise to God, Bartimaeus brings glory to Jesus.

The story of Bartimaeus' healing is a powerful example to us of how it pleases Jesus for our faith to see its opportunity, grasp it, and refuse to let it go until we receive what we need from God. Who would have thought this beggar would instantly become a giver! What can your faith help you become?
