

**“Believing Is Seeing”**  
**July 13, 2014**

**Mark 10:46-52**

**CORE: You’ve heard of “blind faith”—but faith is anything but blind! Faith is a gift from God that opens our eyes to see Him—and our hearts to receive Him!**

**1. BARTIMAEUS’ STORY**

- **He was blind.** Later in verse 51, he would say: **“I want to see”** (*Lit.- “I want to recover my sight”*) implying that he had previously been able to see.
- **He was in Jericho.** The city once destroyed by Joshua & his army. It had since been restored by Herod the Great as his winter palace. The city soon became a resort for the wealthy.
- **He was a beggar.** Though God had called His people to care for the oppressed & the needy (**SEE Leviticus 25:35-38**), they failed to do so. Instead, they despised the needy—especially the blind, viewing them as “cursed by God” due to their own sin.
- **Though he had not seen a miracle, he “saw” Jesus as He really is.** He called Him the **“Son of David”**—a reference to the Messianic promise of **Isaiah 9:6-7**. After 10 chapters of confusion & opposition RE: Jesus—this blind man truly “sees” Jesus as the **Son of God given to us!**
- **He cries out loudly and persistently,** unable to control his bold faith and expectant heart. He refuses to keep quiet!
- **The crowd rebukes him and tries to silence him.**
  - Seeing him as unworthy of Jesus’ attention
  - Embarrassed by his outbursts
  - Attempting to spare him the disappointment (NOTE: No O.T. record of anyone healed of blindness)
- **Jesus turned the tide of the crowd with two words: “Call him.”** Suddenly the crowd’s posture turns from despondency to expectancy: **“Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you!”**
- **Bartimaeus “threw his cloak aside.”** His cloak was his protection from the elements; his bed; and his tool for receiving money. He is fully expectant to receive his sight! He demonstrated his faith.
- **His clear request: “I want to see!”** He verbally expressed his faith.
- **Jesus: “Your expectancy has made you well.”**
- **Not only did he receive his healing, he then “followed” Jesus—more than likely, for the last week of Jesus’ life.** NOTE: He was also the first person in Mark’s Gospel who responded to his healing by following Jesus.

## 2. BELIEVING IS SEEING

As we “walk in faith,” going on “from faith to (more) faith,” expressing an “ever-increasing faith”—we experience an **INCREASING CAPACITY TO...**

- **SEE JESUS AS HE IS**
  - He hears our deepest cries (i.e., the cries of our hearts- Psalm 34:18)
  - He is ready, willing and able to heal & restore us!
  - He is our “ever-present help” (Psalm 46:1) NOTE: He never promised us a “pain-free” life; “**You will have tribulation, but be of good cheer—I have overcome the world!**” John 16:33. He promised us **His presence & His ultimate victory!**
  - In C.S. Lewis’, *Prince Caspian*, Lucy (one of the children) encounters Aslan (i.e., *Jesus, the Lion of Judah*):

*“Aslan, Aslan. Dear Aslan! At last,” Lucy declared as she gazed into his large wise face.*

*“Welcome child,” he said.*

*“Aslan,” said Lucy, “you’re bigger!”*

*“That’s because you are older, little one,” answered he.*

*“Not because you are?”*

*“I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.”*

- **SEE OURSELVES (and others) THROUGH HIS EYES**
  - “Bar” means “son of” (i.e., “Bar Jonah” Matt. 16:17)
  - “Bar Timaeus” means “son of honor, value,” in fact, so valued—you are “ransomed” (i.e., *worth buying back & setting free!*)
  - Faith “quenches the quenchers” (i.e., *lies that tell you you’re unworthy. Lies that tell you not to get your hopes up*)
- **SEE BEYOND OBSTACLES & LIMITATIONS**
  - You can “throw off your cloak” (i.e., *things you cling to for your false identity, counterfeit security, ‘victim’ mindset*)
  - You can move from “alongside the road” to “following Him” (i.e., *to move together on the same path*)
  - From passivity; paralyzing fear; indifference; offense; failure→ being activated; empowered; enjoying risk-taking fulfilling adventures—coming fully alive
  - “We’ve been too long on this mountain” Deuteronomy 1:6
  - “*The journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step*”; *things can turn around in a moment!!!*