Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Mark 10:46-52

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Blind Bartimaeus Cries Out to Jesus for Healing

Leaving Jericho on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus had gathered a crowd. Bartimaeus' blindness didn't prevent him from hearing the ruckus of the approaching crowd and from asking who was creating all the fuss. When he found out, his cries of "Son of David" in addressing Jesus were not just a way of identifying Jesus' lineage. Since the term "Son of David" is clearly a reference to the Messiah, Bartimaeus was shouting both to the crowd and to Jesus that he believed Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Although Jesus was surrounded by a crowd and was set on reaching his destination, his ears and heart were attuned to the cry of one calling out for mercy. Bartimaeus needed Jesus' mercy, and Jesus heard his cry.

Bartimaeus Hails Jesus as the Son of David

In acknowledging Bartimaeus' identification of him as the Son of David, Jesus was also making a statement. Earlier in his ministry, he'd avoided being identified as the Messiah. But now, as he was making his last trip to Jerusalem, where he would be crucified, he was ready for his identity to be known.

Bartimaeus' Faith Initiates the Healing

Notice that Bartimaeus' faith in Jesus initiated his healing. Jesus didn't say, "Because you've lived a good life in spite of your hardship, I'll heal you." He didn't say, "Because your parents were so faithful to me, I'll give you your sight." Jesus responded to Bartimaeus' faith. Things haven't changed. Jesus responds to our needs on the basis of our faith, not because of anything good we've done or any specific set of words we repeat. Jesus shows us he cares for us by taking care of our needs as we acknowledge our dependence on him and trust in him to meet those needs. And what Jesus asks in return is that we do as Bartimaeus did and follow Jesus along the roads of our lives, no matter how old or young we may be.

The Jesus Connection

Do you have a good friend who you usually talk to about your problems? Jesus is the ultimate friend. As Bartimaeus learned, we can cry out in faith when we need Jesus' help! And we can have faith in Jesus to meet our needs in one way or another.

Pray honestly about your needs, and then focus on the reasons you have faith in Jesus to help you, heal you, or simply hear you. You can write your prayer here.