

Mark 10:46-52 – Roadside Assistance

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.

Blind Bartimaeus

- Bartimaeus' condition – blind, handicapped, can't see, underprivileged, in a condition where he can't see or in darkness.
- He is on the side of the road, a highway, begging. Blindness can lead to begging.
- Not going anywhere, just on the side, stranded and begging...looking for folk's leftovers.
- AAA – brings help to the driver when the driver can't get to the mechanic. Can fix you up so you can get going again. Fix what's broken and get you going again. Something was broke and not working in his life.

⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

He heard about Jesus. Something he heard about Jesus caused him to cry out and call upon his name.....and ask for mercy.

- The first key to your repair is knowing who to call when you break down.
- Most people wait until they break down before they call for roadside assistance.
- Good to know a good repairman who is willing and able to come out and see about you when you break down.
- God will always leave you with something to help you recover. Couldn't see, eyes didn't work, could not see his way out of darkness but his ears were still working. Something was still working that God used to get him good news....Jesus is in the area.
 - Even though he is bad shape, he still had something left, still had a blessing. You may not have everything you want but you should be able to say I'm still blessed.
 - Jesus is in the area that ought to cause somebody to shout his name and ask for mercy. Cry out because His mercy endureth forever.
 - He knew what to ask Jesus for; some will ask for the wrong things that only provide temporary relief.
- He could have kept his mouth shut and worked the crowd. He could have settled for leftovers but instead he wanted something better; something that the crowd couldn't give him. Getting your break through may mean you might have to leave the crowd behind.

- He stops begging, stops looking for a handout, and instead sees he had a better hope and better deal with Jesus....he asks for mercy.

48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

Didn't get an answer the first time he called him.

- While he was crying out to Jesus and trying to get to Jesus for help, many others around him were telling him to shut up. Stop all that noise, folk will try and get you to stop your praise. Hold your peace or just shut up and accept this broken down condition. Don't keep seeking Jesus.
 - If he listens to that crowd, he never will get his breakthrough.
- His response to their objections is to keep on praising. In fact, instead of stopping, he stepped his praise up a notch. That's faith....when others are against you or blocking you from Jesus, faith says I'm going to keep on praising, even before my breakthrough...I'm going to praise Him more.
- Crowd will say, chill, take a break, it doesn't take all that, you can just go to church...skip Bible study, it don't take all that....but that's when Bartimaeus took it to another level.
- I still got a few things in my life that needs repair so I'm stepping it up. You may ask me why I praise Him so much; I step up my praise because I'm trying to get some things fixed around here.

49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

The results of his praise.....Jesus stood still. Jesus was headed in one direction but something that Bartimaeus did captured Jesus' attention. If you want Jesus to start to repair your broke down situation, calling his name and giving him praise is a good place to start and get assistance.

- If he doesn't answer the first time, keep calling on him.
- Jesus calls him, Jesus is interested in him....amazing, just because you're broke down now, doesn't mean that Jesus won't call on you soon....if you come correct.
- Before you get your answers, before your repairs are completed, before you get fixed, you gotta know the sequence of events.....when you discover that Jesus is interested in you and calls you to come, that's when you know your repair order has been called in. Too many of us are so focused on getting fixed, that we miss the fact that he calls us first.
 - Might have to be a husband first before He fixes that marriage.
 - Might have to be a dad first before He fixes that relationship.
 - Might have to be a good worker before He fixes that promotion.
 - Might have to be a financial planner on a budget before He fixes your finances.
 - What has God called you to do?

- When he was down, they (the crowd) were against him, now that he's found favor, they want to support him and give him a good word.

⁵⁰ And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

Before he got up, he throws some things off him and came to Jesus. You may have to get rid of some stuff that was on you in order to be able to rise up.

- Still blind, still couldn't see, but still called to come to Jesus. Coming to Jesus is part of what you need to do in order to get fixed.
- Many are called, but few come.
 - Wedding parable, whole lot of folks were invited, but few actually showed up.
- Perhaps the reason why some of us our still broke down is because when we learned about Jesus, and found out that He called us, we never came to Jesus.
 - Never did anything about the calling.
 - And if we did come, some of us didn't come correct. Still trying to get to Jesus but showing up in those crazy clothes, crazy attitude, crazy outfit, just showing up crazy and not humble.
 - The clothes he was wearing on the outside, he stripped that away so he could make it to Jesus quicker and without being hindered. Perhaps your repairs are being delayed because you can't really get to Jesus with all that stuff still on you.
 - He was blind...I wonder who dressed him? You know he must have looked crazy cause he could see how he acted or how he looked. Stop looking and acting crazy, take that old stuff off and get your butt to Jesus but make sure you come correct.
- How to come correct. An application. There are several critical steps to correctly apply this story to your life situation so you can experience recovery with Christ.
 - First Step – humbly recognize you need God. Know that you receive Him through Christ. Understand you cannot work this out on your own any more.
 - Second Step – bury your past; change your mind (repent). Bartimaeus left those old clothes behind. He left the position he was in....down and begging.
 - Third Step – you have new hope, a resurrected life. You can rise up from your down position by having faith and acting on the Word of God. Jesus invited Bartimaeus to come closer. He rises up by faith in the Word from Jesus Christ.
 - If you do what Bartimaeus did, you can receive what he got....new life and hope in Christ.

⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

What did Jesus answer? He answered and responded to his praise and request for mercy.

- What do you want Jesus to do for you?
- His reply was he wanted to receive his sight. We need to make the same request, after we worship and praise and call upon His name, and come to Him, ask Him can you receive sight so you can see how to walk, see how to live, see how to get out of this mess, see how to get back on the road again, see how to fix some things, how to fix my marriage, fix my relationships, fix my finances.
- It wasn't his condition but His faith that released the miracle. Those three critical steps that everyone must take in order to be saved.

⁵² And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Go, you can start moving again, get back on the highway again, and start this thing over again.

- His faith made him whole. Not just able to see, made whole. He wants to do more than let you see, wants you to be restored and made whole. Not just my eyes, but everything about me. The whole me.
- What he had been waiting for, came immediately. Once you get in position, it should be happening pretty fast. Once you do your part by humbly finding Jesus, you should see some things immediately.
- Got more than what he was asking for, was made whole.
- After he got his sight, after he got his repairs and was fixed, he followed Jesus in the way. Meaning, he followed Jesus.
 - When you are really grateful, you'll stay with Him, run after Jesus, follow Jesus
 - Too many ingrates out there who just want the right now hook up and temporary relief until the next episode.
- Purpose of being made whole is so you can follow Jesus.
- He not only followed Jesus, it says he followed him in "the way". The correct way. Amazing how a blind beggar receives grace and mercy. Jesus did the work and performed the miracle, all Bartimaeus had to do was have faith in Jesus.