

Sermon - Analysis of the Crowd

Mark 10:46-50

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

Let's walk through this story together, step by step. The crowd was around Jesus, but Jesus wasn't in the crowd. I mean physically and in the natural, Jesus was in the middle of the crowd, but the crowd didn't have Jesus.

- You can be around Jesus, follow Jesus, know something about Jesus, and still miss Jesus.
- You can see Jesus on the outside, but not really know him on the inside.

You don't want to be hanging out with the wrong crowd. I wish somebody told me that when I was younger. The world today is not the kind of crowd you want to hang around. Whether physically or virtually or socially, there are some crowds in the world you need to avoid.

There is one good thing about this crowd. Since this crowd was hanging around Jesus, somebody in the crowd must have mentioned his name and been talking about Jesus. Bartimaeus happened to join the crowd at some point. He couldn't see but his ears must have been real good because he heard that Jesus was in the neighborhood.

- In order for him to hear that Jesus was there, somebody must have mentioned his name. There is still power in the name of Jesus. Just talking about Jesus or even mentioning his name can make a difference.
- One good thing about this crowd, they were talking about Jesus. This is a good crowd to be around.

Bartimaeus was in the crowd. He didn't start out in the crowd. He was on the highway stuck and the crowd must have found him along the way. Once he joined the crowd and heard about Jesus, a transformation process began in him. He started doing something different; he started to cry out in the crowd. His praise and his cry out to Jesus for mercy wasn't cool with this crowd. Many in the crowd told him to chill out and hold his peace. Join me for a moment in this crowd.

- You can't be making all that noise in here like that. This ain't that kind of crowd.

- You can't be in this crowd calling out to Jesus like this. You can't praise him around us like this.
- Now the crowd probably thought they were doing a good thing. I mean I'm walking with this crowd and I can see where they are coming from. It makes perfect sense to me.
- But if you really know Jesus and if Jesus is in you for real, you gotta know that this is not the way Jesus operates.
 - The crowd was still looking good on the outside, but on the inside, they were working against Jesus and the Kingdom.
 - Jesus said the very rocks will cry out in praise.
 - This good crowd, talking about Jesus. This good crowd which helped Bartimaeus see Jesus, is now working against him.

How did the crowd miss the mark on this with Bartimaeus? I don't know for sure but if I was in this crowd I would guess the following:

- Pride – you can't tell me anything about Jesus because I was hanging around and joined this crowd before you came along. I been here doing it this way before we let you join our crowd.
 - Pride will cause you not to listen, yet Bartimaeus knows what some of them don't know or believe, that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - Jesus said sinners will get into the Kingdom before some church folks will.
- Against change – I don't know how you act or how you worshipped at your last crowd, but we don't roll like that here.
- This ain't proper and you are embarrassing us so hush up that fuss.
- Looking down on him – this is how I see you in the natural and you got some real issues. But I'm missing how God sees him.
- My needs are greater than his – what I need to happen in this crowd is more important than what Bartimaeus needs.

Bartimaeus is trying to find his way to Jesus but the crowd is in the way. The crowd was helpful at first but now the crowd and what the crowd wants is a hinderance to Bartimaeus' recovery and miracle. We can't let how we do things be a roadblock to others seeking Jesus for help.

Phase 2 – the Crowd story continues – the transformation

Jesus in verse 49, stood still. He stopped moving. When he stopped, the crowd must have stopped too.

- Until you stop what you are doing now, your tomorrow may not change.
- Jesus commands or directs them to call Bartimaeus.
- Some folks in the crowd. There was more than one because the scripture says they go to him as directed.
- The crowd said something different. Instead of telling him to shut up, they encourage him to get up. Instead of telling him to stay there, they give him hope to rise up. They see him differently. Why?



- Because instead of just following Jesus, they obeyed Jesus. If you really love me, obey my commandments. They became a different kind of crowd. In order to hit phase two and move beyond just talking about Jesus, you may have to:
 - Be still.
 - Hear what Jesus is saying now and obey.
 - And go out and encourage others by letting them know Jesus sees them and their situation and is calling them.

Be a facilitator, not a hater. How much do you really love Jesus? Do you love him enough to obey?

Application. There are church crowds today. They hang around Jesus, talk about Jesus, but can only take you so far.

- The church crowd wants you to conform to what they do and how they do it.
- In other words, if you are going to be in this church, this is how we do things. This is how we act.
- This is how we praise. This is our order of worship.
- How we do church is more important than what you need.

When your order of worship and your way becomes more important than Jesus, you will miss who Jesus really is and who He is all about. You have churches that look good on the outside, but Jesus may be missing on the inside.

What kind of church crowd is Cloverdale? What kind of crowd is here?

Oh, we are a good crowd. If you join this crowd, you will certainly hear the name of Jesus around here. We sing about Jesus, pray in his name, and we preach about Jesus. We have church. You can start your recovery here.

But are we a phase 2 crowd? Do we just have church or do we really send His message to others that Jesus is calling them. Are we more concerned with Sunday service and how we do things, rather than meeting the needs of those who really are calling out to Jesus for help.

There is nothing wrong with our worship style, our agenda, how we do things, until it gets in the way of someone in need getting to Jesus. It happened in Mark 10, it still happens today. Is there a risk that it might happen here?

What Jesus told that crowd, he still commands us today. What are you doing in the crowd? Until we are still, and hear what Jesus has to say, we won't be a changed church. A church that reaches out to someone and says, be of good comfort, rise; He is calling you. Be that person in this crowd.

Sermon - Roadside Assistance

Mark 10:46-52

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

Let's walk through this story together and walk specifically with Bartimaeus.

When you are stuck and broke down on the side of the road, what do you do?

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. The first key to your repair is knowing who to call when you break down. Good to know a good repairman who is willing and able to come out and see about you when you break down.

Something was broke and not working in Bartimaeus' life. Bartimaeus' condition – blind, handicapped, can't see, underprivileged, in a condition where he can't see or in darkness. He was in need, begging, on the side of the road. Not going anywhere, stranded looking for folk's leftovers. Step one, he recognized his need and he was humble.

Verse 47. He heard about Jesus. Something he heard about Jesus caused him to cry out and call upon his name.....and ask for mercy. Jesus happens to be in the neighborhood. But he doesn't know it because he can't see him. He heard Jesus was near. Someone told him or he overheard. If someone doesn't talk about Jesus, he will never be healed. Hearing about Jesus, knowing something about him caused him to cry out.

If it wasn't for the word, he never would have cried out to Jesus like that. We need to hear about Jesus.

- Couldn't see, couldn't see his way out of darkness but his ears were still working.
- 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.

Verse 48. Didn't get an answer the first time he called him.

- While he was crying out 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.
- 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...faith says I'm going to keep on calling out to Jesus; even before my breakthrough...I'm going to praise Him more.
- He doesn't pay attention to the crowd. If he listens to the crowd, Jesus may not stop.
- I still got a few things in my life that needs repair so I'm stepping it up. Why do you praise Him so much, cause I'm trying to get some things fixed around here.

He knew Jesus to be the Son of David. What did that mean? Son of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Romans 1:3). The long-awaited deliverer. He is the Messiah. He knew more about Jesus than some church folks.

49. The results of his praise.....Jesus stood still. He stopped because of the need. Do we stop? 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.
- 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.
 - What has God called you to do?

There are more moving parts here.

The crowd....when he was down, they were against him, now that he's found favor, they want to support him and give him a good word. Jesus commands the crowd to call him, not bring him, but to call him. There is a difference. The crowd obeyed and called him to come to Jesus.

If the crowd doesn't call him, he might miss his miracle. Has he asked us to call anyone to him? We should look to help them get to Jesus. How the tone changes. Rather than rebuke him, they encourage him. What changed the mood of the crowd? What caused the crowd to change from being a hindrance to being a help? Jesus! Obedience to Jesus' words can lead to others being healed.

He leaves his garment behind. This is Step 2. He comes to Jesus. He busts the faith move. He throws some things off him and came to Jesus. You may have to get rid of some stuff in order to rise up.

- Coming to Jesus is part of what you need to do in order to get fixed.

- Many are called, but few come. Obedience is an important part to your breakthrough.
- 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.

Jesus' question is, what do you want me to do for you? He was previously begging for a handout but notice what he asks for here. Instead of looking for something just to get by, he asks for his sight. There is a great difference. He asked to be able to see. He wants something greater than a handout. Why? He asked for something that will last. He must have known that Jesus was able to do something great

- What do you want Jesus to do for you?
- 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.

Step 3. Jesus responds. Go your faith made you whole. What caused the man to have faith? The word, knowledge about Jesus, a changed crowd.

It doesn't stop there. After the healing, after the miracle, he begins to follow Jesus. Why does he follow Jesus in the way? Because of what Jesus did for him. Jesus said go your way. But instead, in his new post miracle life, his way is a new way in Jesus. Jesus' way becomes his way.

- 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.
- What he had been waiting for, came immediately. Once you do your part by humbly finding Jesus, you should see some things immediately.
- He followed Jesus in the way.
 - When you are really grateful, you'll stay with Him, run after Jesus, follow Jesus
 - Too many ingrates out there.

Application: who are you in this story? If you were there, what role would you play?

Even today, there are people in need. They are blind spiritually. They can't see the way out of their situation, blind to what the future holds and in the dark. But if I do what Bartimaeus did, I bet I will get what he got.

1. Recognize I'm in need.
2. You have to hear the Word and know something about Jesus and who he is.
3. Cry out for mercy.
4. Leave your past behind.
5. Just come to Jesus.

Sometimes, I'm in the crowd. When I'm following Jesus, I'm looking to help those who were in need like me. I want to encourage them and tell them that Jesus is still calling them today. I want to help others come to Jesus.

Some additional observations and comments from class:

- Why didn't Jesus stop the first time Bartimaeus cried out? Perhaps as a testimony and lesson for us to continue by faith to be persistent in prayer and seeking God. If we persist like Bartimaeus did through faith, we will get the same results.
 - It was a great example of what faith looks like and should look like today.
- Bartimaeus could have followed the crowd and turned to them for help rather than turning to Jesus. Today, the people make this mistake of trusting in the crowd rather than Jesus.
- The church crowd that talks about Jesus and follows Jesus, can be the same crowd that blocks a miracle or breakthrough.
- Why did Bartimaeus keep crying out and ignore the crowd? Perhaps for two reasons:
 - His need was so great, he couldn't pass up the opportunity to be healed. He was sick and tired of being stuck in his current situation and condition.
 - He understood who Jesus was. He knew and believed that Jesus was the answer to his problem.
- Why did Jesus tell the crowd to go call Bartimaeus rather than go to him personally?
 - He allows the crowd to participate in the miracle.
 - To show the error of the crowd's ways or perspective.
 - It is a teaching point for us even today. Jesus is still calling the church to encourage others, to help them rise up from their conditions, and let them know that Jesus is still calling them to come.
- Bartimaeus throws his clothes aside as part of the process of rising up by faith to come to Jesus. What do you have to cast aside and let go in order to come to Jesus for your breakthrough?
- Bartimaeus is transformed even before his miracle in that he changes from asking for a handout to asking for something much greater.
 - He must have thought Jesus was willing and able to do something greater and that would last.
 - What are we asking Jesus for today? Just something to get by, or something greater?

Blind Bartimaeus preached at prison and Supreme Love

46. Blind Bartimaeus

47. 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 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.
 - Knew what to ask Jesus for, everybody else he was probably asking for money...something temporary.
- 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.

48. 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 don'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. Why you praise Him so much, cause I'm trying to get some things fixed around here.

49. 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 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 were against him, now that he's found favor, they want to support him and give him a good word.

50. 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.
 - 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.

51. 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, that I can see. 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.

52. Go, you can start moving again, get back on the highway again, 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.
- Purpose of being made whole is so you can follow Jesus.