

## **Blind Bartimaeus - *Finding Our Significance***

**Text: *Mark 10:46-52***

In the Bible, when it comes to people who can be considered insignificant, it will have to be **Bartimaeus**.

The status of Bartimaeus can depict something people are wrestling with in this season right now, **INSIGNIFICANCE**.

Insignificance can equate from... having a failed marriage, not being able to meet financial obligations, feeling disrespected by loved ones, having a debilitating sickness, indecisiveness, being jobless, etc.

For Bartimaeus, while people are passing by him every single day, he is sitting on the roadside, begging, feeling hopeless, helpless and insignificant.

When this global pandemic hit us all, we may have had the question that Bartimaeus had to wrestle on a day-to-day basis, “***Am I still significant?***”

Usually, back then, everybody is known by their name. There is always a meaning behind a name and that's what a person is known for.

But when it came to **the blind, the lame, the mute, and people who cannot care for themselves**, quite often they were not known by their name, **they were known by their condition**.

So, the best that this blind man could do was to say that he is the son of someone who was important. That's all that

he had to live on, **Bar-Timaeus, son of Timaeus**. (Mark 10:46)

***“When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Mark 10:47***

He knew this was not an opportunity for a large crowd to fill his hands with coins. **This was the opportunity for him to receive his miracle.**

With what he’s heard about Jesus, His power to heal the sick, **he knew that Jesus was all he needed.**

He believed that Jesus was the long-awaited promise, **the Son of David ... the Son of King David ... the Saviour of the world.**

Things to note when Bartimaeus came to Jesus:

- His **first intense request was to ask for mercy.**
- He **did not directly ask for his eyesight to be restored.** He first asked for mercy.
- He **first appealed for Christ’s attention** by asking for His mercy.
- He **was not quiet but bold** about this.

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

## **Bartimaeus' oppositions were:**

- The **people** around him who were getting upset
- The **people** he expected help from
- The **people** who were following Jesus

It is important to keep our focus on Jesus alone.

**Many people heard** (that Jesus was there)  
**but only one shouted.**

**Many people understood** that this was Jesus of  
Nazareth **but only one called out to Him**  
**as *the Son of David*.**

## What did blind Bartimaeus do?

- **He reminded himself about the fulfilment of God's covenant** when he shouted, "***Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.***"
- **He did not give up** as giving up will only lead to nothing.
- **He did not let other people silence his request.**
- **He did not let his request go unanswered.**
- **He did not just shout but he cried out.**

***Jesus stopped*** and said, "*Call him.*" So they called to the blind man, "*Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.*"

Mark 10:49

**HE STOPPED**, not for the crowd but  
**for the one who called His attention.**

**JESUS STOPPED and took notice** of the poor blind man.

- **He threw aside the only possession he had on him,** he jumped to his feet, and he ran to Jesus. (Mark 10:50)

We need to **let go** of the things that could hinder us from getting closer to Jesus.

- **He took action.** Following Jesus takes action.

Jesus asked him this question, “***What do you want me to do for you?***” *Jesus asked him.* Mark 10:51

Why ask a blind man what he wants. Isn't the answer obvious? But, no, it was far from obvious.

Of course, Jesus already knows what Bartimaeus needed. In the same way, God already knows what we need before we ask of Him. He is the all-knowing, the all-powerful, the everywhere-present God.

When the Apostle Mark phrases this question for Bartimaeus, **the emphasis was on Him, was on Jesus.** “*What do you want ME to do for you?*”

The **focus was not on what Bartimaeus needed** but on **what Jesus would do for him.**

Mark 10:51 ... *The blind man said, “**Rabbi**, I want to see.”*

**You don't just need sight in order to see  
and be seen, you need vision.**

***“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight  
but no vision.”*** Helen Keller

*For we live by faith, not by sight.* 2 Corinthians 5:7

**His life was changed WHEN HE HEARD  
the stories of Jesus of Nazareth.**

**He believed in his heart that this was the Son of David.**

### **Lessons learnt:**

- We need more than sight, **we need vision in order to see our significance.**
- Do not expect that it would be easy and smooth sailing when you follow Jesus.
- Do not let anybody silence your voice when you are following after Jesus.
- Let's not live for the attention of the people around us.
- Let's live for God's approval and attention.

A lot of times, when we are feeling insignificant,  
**we tend to get the attention of the people around us  
instead of living for God's attention.**

- Believe that we are significant before God, **BECAUSE WE ARE!**