

Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus was a beggar beside the road. He was blind and begged to eat. He had no earthly possessions. He depended on people walking by to live. People who had compassion on him.

He has been abused and was hurting and he became dissatisfied with the way he lived. He did something about it. Someone told him Jesus was passing by and he cried out to Jesus. Have mercy on me.

Faith rose up in him and He took authority over his situation. He was mad at the devil, mad at the situation and he believed that God could heal him too. He stepped out in faith and took off his beggar robe, without his beggar robe he had no way to feed himself.

He could not beg without the robe. He risked his life as he knew it and cried out to God. What a choice he made. What would you do?

He was blind so he never saw a miracle. But his eyes of faith opened and he believed that Jesus could heal him. He continued to cry louder and he got Jesus attention. There was a great multitude appealing to Jesus that day to help them but Jesus heard the blind man.

He became victorious and not a victim anymore!

Bartimaeus because dissatisfied about where he was. Are you satisfied where you are? Do you need a miracle? Do you believe that all things are possible with God?

He cried out to God. It is ok to cry by cry to God. Cry out for your miracle. Just you and God are in this miracle. Together. You are trusting God alone.

He made a statement of faith by casting off his beggars robe. Make a testimony of faith. What is holding you captive and separating you from God? Is it physical? Emotional? Finances? A person? A harm done to you in the past? A harm you did to another? What is choking you to death? Call out to God and ask for mercy. Cast if off and ask for your miracle?

He decided not to turn back. Your faith will become bigger than your circumstances. Pray until your prayer is answered. Get a grip on God to overcome your fear.

Matthew 16:21-25

To help identify God's voice, ask:

- *Is the message consistent with the Word of God? By examining*

Scripture, we will know to reject the voice that tells us we are under condemnation (Rom. 8:1) and accept the truth that the Lord forgives us.

- *Does what we hear conflict with human reasoning? If so, it could be from the Lord—He tells us to turn the other cheek and love our enemies, plus other unexpected things like, “The last shall be first.”*

- *Do God’s words clash with our plans?*

- *Are His words a challenge to our faith? He wants to build our faith to deepen the relationship with Him.*

- *Is courage required to obey God? When He speaks, a decision requiring sacrifice or change of direction is often necessary.*

Jesus doesn’t want us listening to “strangers,” because then it would be easy for us to be led astray. Won’t you spend time in God’s Word so you will know His voice?

Let us pray