

Exegetical Notes, Mark 10:46-52
“Bar Timaeus”

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Mark 10:46-52

Verse 46

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging.

- Jesus was leaving the modern city of Jericho and going into the old town of Jericho. The old town was still a ruin, left that way from Old Testament days. (See Joshua 5)
- On the road there was a blind man who was working his trade. He was a professional beggar.
- The blind man is identified as Bartimaeus. In Hebrew the word “BAR” means son of. So this man was the son of Timaeus. The mention of the father’s name probably means that those to whom the story was written would have known him. He was probably someone important in that community or someone known as a Christian among the church.

Verse 47

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

- Even though he could not see, the commotion caused by the passing of the large crowd got Bartimaeus’ attention. He must have asked what was happening or heard someone say something about Jesus of Nazareth. When he did, he began to cry out to Jesus for mercy.

Verse 48

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy upon me!”

- To the people who composed the crowd, Bartimaeus was just a beggar. He had no importance and, therefore, should not bother someone as important as Jesus. They told him to be quiet.
- But Bartimaeus would not be stopped. He cried out louder begging Jesus to help him.
- The title, “Son of David,” implies that Bartimaeus understood that Jesus might be Israel’s Messiah.

Verse 49

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

- Bartimaeus’ tenacity paid off. Jesus called him to come to him.

Verse 50

Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

- Bartimaeus tossed off his heavy cloak and came directly to Jesus without any delay.

Verse 51

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

- The question here must be compared to that asked by James and John in Mark 10:35 because Jesus’ response is the exactly the same. (See Mark 10:36.) They asked for places of personal honor and were denied. The blind man asks for what is essential, sight.
- The term of address, “RABBI,” is a respectful Hebrew title. It means teacher or my teacher. Through his instruction, the teacher gives his students’ sight.

Verse 52

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

- Unlike James and John, Bartimaeus received the gift he requested immediately. His sight was so completely restored that he became one of those who followed Jesus.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Bar Timaeus*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)