

Title: BARTIMEAUS, A STORY OF JESUS, MARK 10:46-52  
(Chatham, NJ; 10/28/12, AM) [E – Two-Point Narrative]

Theme: Although Bartimaeus' story witnesses to his faith in Christ, the real story is Jesus.

Purpose: To discuss the story of Bartimaeus and how it dovetails with the story of Christ and finds ultimate significance only because of him.

Introduction:

1. Why do we have Bartimaeus' name? We have the names of so few others. Mark even gives the name of his father and the location.
2. Did the early church know him? Did he become a follower after Pentecost? It's possible.
3. His is the human experience of healing.
4. More important, however, is the story of Jesus, the one who heals.
5. "The blind receive their sight" was a signature mark of the Messiah (Mt. 11:4; Jer. 31:8).
6. Bartimaeus' story becomes significant because it is absorbed into the salvation narrative about Jesus and the Kingdom of God.
7. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem with a great crowd; he is about to make a triumphal entry; Bartimaeus becomes a part of that event.

## I. His Experience

- A. Get a picture of the story
  1. Jesus and a great crowd are leaving Jericho (a specific place)
  2. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, is seated by the road, 46
  3. He yells to Jesus, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."
  4. The crowds try to silence him
  5. He continues to yell
  6. Jesus hears him
  7. He joins the crowd on the way to Jerusalem
- B. Those who try to silence him, 48
  1. Was it disruptive?
  2. Was it supposed that the Messiah had no time for him?
  3. Some had tried to keep children away, 10:13-16
  4. For different reasons perhaps, people still want to keep others away from Jesus
    - Christy McFerren's feelings tried to hinder her (as for many others)
    - Question 6 on the Maryland ballot undermines traditional marriage and its supporters say that those who believe in traditional marriage engage in an "intentional distortion of the truth."
    - Angela McCaskill was relieved from her post at Gallaudet University because she supports the rejection of this law
    - Some attempt to silence Christian voices
- C. But persistence wins
  1. Bartimaeus persists in spite of the opposition
  2. The Phoenician woman persists, 7:25-29
  3. We are told to be persistent in prayer: ask, seek, knock
  4. We live in times when being silent is wrong
  5. Evil triumphs when good people fail to speak up

II. Jesus is the Story, "The church is not saved by stories but by the God who is rendered by them and emerges by their means."

- A. Fulfills the Prophets
  1. Jeremiah 31:7-9 includes the blind

2. Luke 4:18-19 quotes Isaiah 61:1-2
  3. Bartimaeus illustrates a specific fulfillment
  4. He follows Jesus
- B. Jesus saves, Col. 1:21-22
1. Jesus has not told B. to be silent
  2. He is headed to Jerusalem where he will complete his mission to save sinners by his blood and to reconcile them to God
  3. He saves all who come to him and lives to intercede them, Heb. 7:25
- C. Jesus provides a moral compass
1. We must keep his commandments, 1 John 2:4-6
  2. We must reject the ways of the flesh, Gal. 5:19-21
  3. We must deny our sinful impulses, Romans 8:12-13

Conclusion:

1. Does your life fit into the story of Jesus?
2. It is the story of sin and reconciliation.
3. Sinners must believe in Jesus, repent, and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.
4. No other story is important.
5. Make yourself part of Jesus' story today.