

Taking It Home:

- The story of Bartimaeus is the last healing story in Mark and serves to bookend this section. Do you find your own heart more like that of the rich man or like that of Bartimaeus? Why?

- In coming to Jesus, were you more like the rich man (having everything going for you but finding it hard to believe) or more like Bartimaeus (obviously broken and ready for a change)?

- Consider for yourself if your starting point with Jesus may bias you in your desire to see others enter the Kingdom. The crowd tried to close the mouth of one who was voted most unlikely to trust Jesus but in His kindness Jesus causes the last to become first.

- Mark tightens up the story compared to Matthew or Luke but enough detail is provided to clearly indicate that Bartimaeus “sprang” to follow Jesus. This Bartimeaus, son of Timaeus was one who after seeing Jesus clearly, began to follow Him and was known to the believing community as one who is on the way with Jesus. If people were to look at your life, can they see a time where Jesus has made an impact in your life such that you see Him clearly and are following on His path?

The Ransom
The Transformation of Blind Bart
Mark 10:46-52

Dr. Matthew St. John
Bethel Church
July 20, 2014

The Transformation of Blind Bart

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelcf.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of July 20, 2014

Mark 10:46-52

Quick Review: It is easy for us to read the story of Bartimaeus and miss just how awkward his exchange with Jesus must have been at first. For days, he would sit along the path and beg for money. There was no hope for him other than the small gifts or alms given by a generous passerby. Bartimaeus had lost his sight long ago and now he spent his days sitting cross-legged catching coins with his robe. The crowds that week would have been quite large at times with the traffic headed to Jerusalem for Passover. All of these Jewish people were excited to gather in the capital to celebrate the deliverance God had granted His people centuries ago. Word spread that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby. With hope like he hadn't felt in years, Bartimeaus began to cry out for Jesus' attention. As the crowds responded with their own shouts trying to shut him up, Bartimeaus only got louder. Jesus heard Bartimeaus plea and responded with a kindness like no one before. Mark's story of Bartimaeus serves as an illustration for what the Kingdom of God looks like for those who want to live for Jesus. The last become first and the first become last.

My Story:

- What have you had to give up in order to follow Jesus? Was it hard or easy for you?
- When have you found yourself most ready to respond to Jesus call to follow Him?
- Is there anything you're holding back in following Jesus?

Growing Deeper:

- For better understanding of the details of Mark 10:46-52 take time to read Matthew 20:29–34 and Luke 18:35–43. What stands out to you as distinct from each perspective?
- The word for “teacher” or “rabbi” used in 10:51 is the same word used of Mary in John 20:11-18. What do you notice about Mary's response that is similar to Bartimaeus?
- Contrast the story of the rich man from Mark 10:17-25 with the story of Bartimaeus. Compare each man's approach, attitude, faith, and response to Jesus.
- In what ways does the character of Bartimaeus reflect what Jesus taught His disciples in chapter 10?