

(38) Blind Bartimaeus Healed (Mt. 20:29-34; Mk. 10:46-52; Lk. 18:35-43)

1. One blind man (Mk. 10:46; Lk. 18:35) or two (Mt. 20:30), begging (Mk. 10:46; Lk. 18:35), as Jesus was approaching (Lk. 18:35) and/or leaving (Mt. 20:29; Mk. 10:46) Jericho.
2. This episode is not to be confused with an earlier episode [GM31 Two Blind Men's Sight Restored] (Mt. 9:27-31).
3. Jericho was the first point of contact for Joshua's military invasion of Canaan (Josh. 2 & 6). It now becomes the first point of contact for Jesus' last walk to Jerusalem.
4. This route was dangerous for lone travelers (Lk. 10:30). For this journey, the Lord is accompanied by a large company.
 - a. Those who led the way (Lk. 18:39) with a leading crowd (Lk. 18:36).
 - b. His disciples and a large crowd with Him (Mk. 10:46).
 - c. A large crowd followed (Mt. 20:29).
5. The blind men heard of His coming before He arrived. They were told that Jesus (Mt. 20:30), Jesus the Nazarene (Mk. 10:47), Jesus of Nazareth (Lk. 18:37) was coming through town.
6. These blind men saw more clearly than most others. They rightly identified the Nazarene as their rightful King (Mt. 20:30; Mk. 10:47; Lk. 18:38).
7. Just as Legion dominated the narrative for Mark & Luke in contrast with Matthew, Bartimaeus is particularly highlighted in Mark & Luke for this narrative. See [GM29 Gadarene Demoniac(s) Healed] (Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39).
8. Bartimaeus. Βαρτιμαῖος ^{#924} fr. Aram. בֵּר טִמְי. Mark's habit is to translate and explain Aramaic terms (Mk. 3:17; 7:11,34; 14:36). His phrase "son of Timaeus" is his explanation for the meaning of Bartimaeus. Various traditions note Bartimaeus as a prominent believer in the early church.
9. Bartimaeus and his blind buddy cried out and called on the Lord in a persistent display of faith (Mt. 20:31; Mk. 10:48; Lk. 18:39). Discouragement encouraged them to cry out louder.
10. Upon being summoned by the Lord, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak (Mk. 10:50)—knowing the miracle was on its way and knowing that he was on his way with Jesus to Jerusalem (Mk. 10:51-52; Mt. 20:33-34; Lk. 18:42-43).

