

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Luke 18:35-43

Opening

Gathering: How do people react when they see someone else's faith in action?

Today's Focus: Bartimaeus demonstrated faith in Jesus and was healed.

Key Verses: *He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* Luke 18:38

They called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. Mark 10:49-50

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Popular Jesus (*Mark 10:1*)

How popular had Jesus become after 3 years of preaching, teaching, healing and miracles?

Mark 10:1

Did Jesus ever have trouble getting away by Himself?

Mark 7:24-26

Did Jesus get upset when people interrupted His attempts at privacy?

Mark 6:27, 30-34

How far did His compassion extend for the "faceless" crowds?

Mark 8:1-9a

How did Jesus view the people in the crowds?

Mark 3:32-35

Attractions

What were some of the reasons people flocked to Jesus?

Mark 9:15

Mark 8:11

Mark 4:1-2

Mark 10:17

Mark 10:13, 16

Mark 7:32

Trying to Get to Jesus

How assertively did people try to get healing from Jesus?

Mark 1:40

Mark 2:1-4

Mark 3:9-10

Mark 5:24-29

Mark 6:54-56

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The Messiah Who Heals (*Matthew 11:2-5*)

Didn't these miracles of healing interfere with Jesus' mission to call people to saving faith?

Mark 5:18-20

How did Jesus use His healing ministry as a sign of who He was?

Matthew 11:2-5

How would the disciples of John the Baptist understand from this who Jesus was?

Isaiah 35:5-6a

Isaiah 26:19

Isaiah 61:1

Outside Jericho (*Luke 18:35*)

Who gave Jesus His last chance for a healing miracle before His final entry into Jerusalem?

Luke 18:35

How does this appear to conflict with the story in Matthew and Mark?

Matthew 20:29

Jericho - A tropical oasis called "The City of Palms" (Deuteronomy 34:3; Judges 3:13)

800 ft below sea level, 5 miles west of Jordan River, 8 miles from where Jordan hits Dead Sea

Jericho is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world; Three different Jerichos

Old Testament Jericho - Destroyed by God (Joshua 6), Rebuilt under King Ahab (faithless)

Joshua 6:26

1 Kings 16:34

New Testament Jericho - Built by King Herod for a winter palace; a mile south of OT Jericho

Modern Jericho - Called er-Riha today; About a mile east of New Testament Jericho

Matthew and Mark (Jews) saw Jesus leaving Old Testament Jericho

Luke (Greek) saw Jesus approaching New Testament Jericho

Blind Bartimaeus (*Luke 18:36-37*)

What does Mark tell us about the blind man that Luke said was sitting by the roadside?

Mark 10:46

Was Bartimaeus sitting by himself?

Matthew 20:30

Since he was blind, how did he know Jesus was walking by?

Luke 18:36-37

Bartimaeus' Perfect Vision (*Luke 18:38*)

How did he call to Jesus that showed that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah?

Luke 18:38

What does calling Jesus a descendant of David have to do with calling Him the Messiah?

Jeremiah 33:14-16

How did this call show that Bartimaeus was one of few who could really see?

Matthew 13:11-17

Why is it important for us to call on Jesus' name like Bartimaeus did?

Acts 4:12

Who are the real blind?

Revelation 3:17

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Bartimaeus' Need and Persistence (*Mark 10:47; Luke 18:39*)

For what did Bartimaeus ask?

Mark 10:47

For what are we to ask?

Psalm 30:10

Why do we need God's mercy?

Luke 18:13

Grace is getting what we don't deserve. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.

How seriously did Bartimaeus desire the Savior's mercy?

Luke 18:39

Why was Bartimaeus so persistent with his request?

Matthew 20:29

Our Persistence (*Luke 18:1-8*)

What parable did Jesus give to show we should be persistent with our requests to God?

Luke 18:1-5

What promise does Jesus make when we pray persistently?

Luke 18:6-8

Do we have to pray persistently for God to answer?

Mark 11:24

Do we have to pray persistently to get God's attention?

Luke 11:9-10

So why did Jesus teach us to be persistent?

John 14:12-14

Bartimaeus Answers Jesus' Call (*Luke 18:40*)

Did Jesus hear Bartimaeus' pleas above the noise of the crowd?

Mark 10:49

Why did Jesus stop and call for Bartimaeus instead of going to him?

Luke 9:59-62

What does Jesus promise to those who hear His call and answer?

Revelation 3:20

How did Bartimaeus answer Jesus' call?

Mark 10:50

Leaving Things Behind (*Mark 10:50*)

What other examples does the Bible give of people leaving things to come to Christ?

John 4:7, 28-29

Matthew 9:9

Mark 1:16-20

Acts 9:15-16

What did Jesus say about those who are called but refuse to leave things to follow Him?

Luke 14:16-24

What does Jesus promise to those who leave the things of the world for Him?

Mark 10:28-30

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Jesus Offers (*Mark 10:51*)

What did Jesus ask Bartimaeus when he came to Him?

Mark 10:51

Did Jesus have to ask this question?

Matthew 6:8

Why did Jesus ask it?

Philippians 4:6-7

Jesus Heals (*Luke 18:41-42*)

For what did Bartimaeus ask?

Luke 18:41

How did Jesus give Bartimaeus his sight?

Luke 18:42

Didn't Jesus have to do something more than just speak?

Genesis 1:3

John 1:1-3

Saving Faith (*Luke 18:43*)

What saved Bartimaeus from his blindness?

Mark 10:52

What saves us from our blindness?

1 Peter 2:9-10

John 8:12

John 3:19, 21

How did Bartimaeus respond to his healed vision?

Luke 18:43

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I really recognized my need for God's mercy?
(*Luke 18:38-39; Psalm 28:6; 57:1; Proverbs 28:13; Daniel 9:9; Micah 6:8; 7:18; Matthew 5:7; Luke 1:50; 6:36; 18:13; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:3; 2:10*)
2. How persistently do I pray?
(*Luke 18:1-8, 38-39; 11:1-13; Isaiah 40:31; Acts 1:14; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17*)
3. What have I left for the sake of Christ?
(*Mark 10:50; Luke 5:1-11, 27-28; 9:23-25, 57-62; 14:16-27; 18:28-30*)
4. What have I been able to see and understand as a result of being a disciple of Jesus?
(*Luke 18:41-43; John 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:1-5, 24-27; 12:37-46; 14:26; 17:6; Romans 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10*)
5. When has my faith led others to praise God?
(*Luke 18:43; Matthew 5:14-16; 9:1-8; 15:30-31; John 15:8; Acts 4:18-21; 11:18; 21:17-20a*)