

Marks of the Kingdom
Making Room for a Life as Prayer
Mark 10:46-52
Oct. 16, 2011

“What do you want Me to do for you?”

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Context - Common site in Near east to have blind beggar outside city gates on the pilgrimage way as people made their way to Jerusalem for the feast.

There are many types of prayer – intercession, worship, thanksgiving, confession.
 Prayer is communication with God – also think of it as openness to God

- Steady awareness of God’s presence thru the day
- Living life attentive to the presence of God, rest in His love/will.
- The practice of prayer is the *primary way* Jesus permeates our entire lives.
- When you become a Xian and follow Jesus, It is the the primary language of the Believer.

Two ingredients for making your life one of prayerful dependence on God:

1. Simple Humility

HUMILITY – we think: doormat, spiritless, without courage; overly submissive
 Jesus shows us true poverty of spirit – a mature, freely accepted dependence on God’s love
 Jesus models complete dependence on God.
 God’s power is unleashed through humility of Bartimeaus. (But not just humility)

2. Simple Faith

Teresa Avila “*Most of our problems in prayer come from praying as if God were absent*” God is present even when we are not! Jesus said, “Go. Your faith has saved you.” –made you whole spiritually, physically, emotionally, relationally, intellectually a restoring of the image of God in Him. Bartimaeus has been transformed from a helpless man going nowhere to a restored man going somewhere – on road with Jesus.

Small Group Questions:

1. Bartimaeus stops simply begging from the crowd to make room for Jesus; the only one who can truly help him. By calling through the crowd Bartimaeus asks Jesus to make room for *him* and He does. What does it mean to go from being a beggar in this world to depending solely on Jesus to meet your needs?
2. What are obstacles to coming to God in humility? What kept the Pharisees and teachers of the law from doing this?
3. What are obstacles to simple faith that cries out in desperation to the only One who can truly save? Why did the crowd rebuke Bartimaeus? What makes many people feel that the God of the Universe is too busy or distant to hear their prayers?
4. Is there an obstacle in your own life that is keeping you –in one area of your life – from submitting in meekness and simply presenting your requests to God and believing with child-like faith that He will hear you.
5. Is there anything that makes it hard to literally make room (time, emotional space, priority) to a life of prayer and ongoing attentiveness to God’s presence?
6. Pray with this verse and hear the words of Jesus to you. “What do you want Me to do for you?”

(Silence 5 minutes)