

## BLIND BARTIMAEUS

MATTHEW 20: 29-34; MARK 10:46-52; LUKE 18:33-45

How many people who are born blind do you think ever get to see?

Well, Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us that Jesus was on a walking tour with some of his disciples. They arrived at Jericho with a great number of people following them. A poor blind man named Bartimaeus sat by the roadside begging. When he heard the voices of the crowd passing by, he asked those near him "What is happening? Why are so many people coming this way?" "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by" they answered. Blind Bartimaeus trembled with hope and longing. Oh, if only Jesus would pass near him and stop long enough to heal his blindness. He had heard about Jesus. But would Jesus see him in this crowd? How near was He? Oh, if only he could see how near Jesus was. The Lord might pass by without seeing him. And his one chance at being healed would be gone.

Then Bartimaeus cried out as loudly as he could so that Jesus could hear him even if he were not near. "Jesus Son of David have mercy on me." He made such a noise with his shouting that the people were annoyed. Some warned him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out even louder and shouted "Jesus Son of David have mercy on me". Jesus heard his cry. He always hears our cries for help. Jesus stopped and told the people to bring the blind man to him. Someone said to Bartimaeus, "Cheer up, He's calling you." Bartimaeus got up quickly---so quickly in fact that he threw off his coat so that he could get to Jesus faster. "What is it you would like me to do for you" Jesus asked. Without hesitating Bartimaeus answered "Teacher, Rabbonai, which means teacher, I want to receive my sight." Jesus saw that Bartimaeus truly believed in Him. "Because of your faith in me" Jesus said, "You shall receive your sight."

Jesus showed such love and compassion. When Jesus touched Bartimaeus' eyes, at once Bartimaeus who had been blind all his life could see for the very first time. With great joy he joined the crowd of people following Jesus. I am sure that Bartimaeus was the noisiest one on the road that day as he shouted praises to God. All the people who saw it praised God too.

How long do you think it took Jesus to heal the blind man? The Bible says that instantly the blind man could see. But I believe he saw in 2 ways. He saw with his eyes for sure. But I believe he also saw with his heart that Jesus is God the Saviour. That's why he followed Jesus praising God. How long would it take for Jesus to forgive your sins? That takes a miracle too. But in just an instant, as soon as you tell Jesus that you want him to come into your heart and life and take away your sin, He will do it. Isn't that more exciting than being able to see with your eyes? Because when Jesus comes into your heart and life, He gives you God's eternal life—clean, forgiven, filled with hope, joy and love. Would you love to follow Jesus and praise God too? Take time to read today's story in your Bible in Matthew chapter 20 verses 29 to 34; Mark chapter 10 verses 46 to 52; and Luke chapter 18 verses 35 to 43.