



**Jesus and Crisis
Intervention
Mark 10:46-52**

Observations

- **The story starts with a man who was blind, named Bartimaeus, sitting beside the main road of Jericho literally “begging for a living.”**
- **Bartimaeus means “son of Timaeus,” his father**
- **So here in scripture is a father who had a grown son who had some special physical challenges in his life**
- **Having a young man at home with special needs; I feel like the father, Timaeus, and I, have had similar feelings at times**
- **The feelings of, “what if,” often crossed his mind (I doubt that there were mobility training organizations for the blind or special needs advocacy groups available to them)**

Blind Bartimaeus Had a Crisis

- **The world is having a crisis right now, but Bartimaeus had a personal crisis (what about you?)**
- **Someone either here today or in our virtual audience may be going through their own personal crisis**
- **Crisis defined – a problem, situation, or condition that is beyond your control or your ability to change**

You may have just received a bad doctor's report

The company that you work for is “downsizing” to stay afloat, but they are laying you off in the process

Your spouse just told you, he/she is no longer in love with you and has found somebody else

Many never think about God until they come upon a crisis

That's why your relationship with God is critical; Matt. 7:24

Don't Be Ashamed to Turn to God in Your Crisis!

- **Bartimaeus had a condition beyond his control (he couldn't heal or deliver himself) That's a common denominator**
- **The woman with an issue of blood, Mark 5:26-30, had a crisis beyond her control (she sought doctors and exhausted her income) But in a crowd with Jesus, she believed that if she could just touch His clothes she'd be alright**
- **Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, had a daughter at the point of death, Mark 5:22 (he left his daughter to find Jesus)**
- **The good news is that in all 3 of these cases, they sought crisis intervention from someone higher**

**Due to this Deadly Pandemic, Do You Look Higher
Than Usual for Help?**

Three Things Bartimaeus Demonstrated That Can Help Us In Our Crises

#1 Bartimaeus Admitted His Need

- It takes humility to admit that you need help
- It takes humility to admit to your peers or your family that, “I don’t know the answer”
- It takes humility to admit that “I need to be taught” rather than be the teacher
- In Acts chapter 8 we find this kind of example for us of humility in the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch (an African converted to Christ)

Observations

- In Acts 8:30, when the evangelist Philip approached the chariot that the African man was in, he asked him, *“do you understand what you are reading?”*
- The eunuch replied, *“how can I except some man guides me?”* (the man didn’t criticize Phillip for a lack of respect)
- Here was a man described as a man of “great authority” under the Queen of Ethiopia, in charge of the country’s finances, who basically admits, *“I may know money, but I don’t know scripture.”* (That’s admirable admission!)
- Point: To admit you need help in one area of learning doesn’t erase or obliterate your competence in other areas (we miss many learning opportunities by pretending and failing to admit what we don’t know)

#2 He Made a Choice to Cry Out to Jesus (he didn't have to) Mark 10:47

- **Folks, Your life up until now is a product of choices you have made**

Whether you choose to study in school is your choice

Being an A student, B student or F student is a choice

Whether to be proactive or lazy is a choice

To be a “go getter,” or a “bench warmer” is a choice

You marry who you choose to marry

You work where you choose to work (a career is a choice)

How/if you discipline your children is a choice

- **Like Bartimaeus you can cry out to Jesus, about your crisis but it's your choice!**

Have You Ever Cried Out to Jesus?

James 4:2-3

- About Your Marriage?
- About Your Job?
- About Your Rebellious Children?
- About Your Aged Parents?
- About Your Consistent Inability to Control Your Desires (or Your Temper, Your Anger)?
- About Your Bad Study Habits?
- About Your Finality? About the Pandemic?

#3 Bartimaeus Conquered Pride

- One of our biggest stumbling blocks to receiving blessings from God that we need, is the SPIRIT OF PRIDE
- Your pride will tell you, *“You don’t have to do that!”*
- In 2 Kings 5, If Naaman, the army captain (a leader) with the leprosy, would have let pride get in the way of God’s prescription to heal his disease, that pride would have sentenced him to death (7 dips in the muddy Jordan river)
- The pride of not adopting Proven Preventive Measures against COVID 19 has already been a death sentence for many (Leaders have died during the pandemic due to pride)

“God will deliver me no matter what I do !” Matthew 5:4
(Satan’s Idea) Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction..”

Observations

- Notice that Jesus was walking near Bartimaeus, but it was His Cry of desperation that got Jesus' attention
- Folks, I can pray to God (intercede) on your behalf, but it may be YOUR cry to God that gets His attention (how desperate are YOU in YOUR crisis?)
- If you are too proud to cry, He just might pass your crisis by
- Notice that the people around Him tried to quiet him
- They tried to, "hush him up," "you're too loud"
- But when you are desperate in your crisis (it's your child, it's your marriage, it's your need for work), you won't let public opinion dictate your passion for Jesus to address your crisis

What Kind of Friends Were These?

- Here is a man who is trying to get to Jesus' attention to turn his life around, but his friends were trying to keep him from being heard by Jesus
- Folks, everybody that claims to be your friend is not your friend
- Any friend of yours that would stop you from improving yourself with Jesus, is not a real friend
- Some of you may be experiencing some pain in your life because you've got some intimate associates that get upset when you talk about God, the church, improving your spiritual standing, becoming holier
- James 4:4 *"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."*

And Then Something Happened!

- **Mark 10:49** says that Jesus stood still in the crowd. Bartimaeus has his attention. *“Jesus stopped and said, Call him.”*
- **Here is the blessing:** First Bartimaeus is calling for Jesus, and now, Jesus is calling for Bartimaeus
- **In verse 50, Bartimaeus threw his garment aside, symbolizing to me everything that identified him as a blind man, a beggar, everything that tied him to his past, he throws it aside, and comes to Jesus**
- **Some of us listening, need to rise up, throw our past garments away, and come to Jesus**

Some of Us Need to Throw the Past Garment Away!

- If you've been carrying hurts and disappointments too long
- Somebody shattered your "dream life" years ago and you are still carrying around that garment of burden - (you are suffering from decisions somebody else made about you). Throw it off! Jesus is calling you to a new life like Bartimaeus
- Some of us have been bound to our past too long. You've let people limit you and label you under their limits and labels. Jesus is calling you now. Cast off those old impediments. Jesus (Your future) is calling you now. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Your future can be awesome, but you have to be willing to throw away the Binding Garment of the Past!

Hebrews 12:1-2

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38