



SOCIAL

The Need to Matter

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THE POWER OF VOICE

Mark 10: 46-52 (NIV) 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.

The phenomenon of Twitter comes from its ability to give everyone with an account a voice that allows them to connect into the larger audience. We can subscribe to follow the posts of individuals and famous people and we can see what they are saying about topics that are trending/popular. We can even respond to them and they can respond back. It allows us to feel personally connected to people, who we would almost never have the opportunity to know or engage in person. The experience can leave us exhilarated and wanting for more. It can also leave us discouraged, perhaps even beaten down by what Freddy called the “Twitter trolls”. We see the “Twitter trolls” in **Mark 10:48** trying to silence Bartimaeus, but that’s the power of Twitter - everyone has a voice. The Gospels mention many men healed from blindness, but Bartimaeus is the only one mentioned by name. We know his father’s name, Timaeus, means “highly esteemed/respected”. Yet, we find Bartimaeus on the streets dependent on the kindness of strangers. He might not have had family, he might not have had status, but he heard and he could speak. He could identify a golden opportunity when he hears one. One so great that he was willing to throw away his cloak, his means of living, and basically be willing to risk everything he had to encounter Jesus.

DISCUSS/JOURNAL

1. In **Mark 10.46**, we are told that crowds followed Jesus. He had celebrity at this point of His ministry because of His miracles and teachings. How did Jesus respond to Bartimaeus’ “tweet”? Would it be “typical” for most celebrities to respond as Jesus did? How is Jesus different? Would He stop for you (read **Hebrews 13:8**)?

2. Bartimaeus gave up everything he had to gain what he didn't have. He saw what Jesus would mean to him because he saw who Jesus was. What would an encounter with Jesus today mean to you? Do you feel like you may have already encountered Him? Explain.
3. How did Bartimaeus basically respond to his "Twitter trolls"? Do you have any "trolls" of your own, what do they say? How will you respond?

WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

We may not be physically blind, but there are other types of blindness. Blindness caused by hurt, hardness, disease, suffering, hate, or the world at large. Our blind spots can prevent us from seeing Jesus; seeing how He loves us, cares for us, forgives us, and how He is always at work for us. Perhaps all we can see is what we can't do and what we don't have. Maybe we have defined our life by these things. If not our sight then what do we have and what can we use? Can we hear, can we listen?

- That I am fearfully and wonderfully made (read **Psalm 139:14**)
- We are more than conquerors (read **Romans 8:37**)
- The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (read **1 John 4:4**)
- Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (read **Galatians 6:9**)

DISCUSS/JOURNAL

1. When we feel like we can't see, we can use Scripture as our lens to see our circumstances. What do you think you can't see right now (sounds like a trick question)? What can be learned from the verses above?
2. Bartimaeus recognized that Jesus was the Son of God. How is crying out an act of faith? (Read **Hebrews 11:6**)

POWER OF DECLARATION

Luke 18:40-43 (NIV) 40 Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had been brought near, Jesus asked him, **41**"What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "let me see again." **42**"Receive your sight!" Jesus replied. "Your faith has healed you." **43**Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people who saw this gave praise to God.

Our voices matter to Jesus. It gets us an audience with the Lord of the Universe. He is the perfect gentleman; when He asks us a question, it's because He's inviting our voice to decide what happens next. It's our desire that moves Him as well as our willingness to be undignified and risk all. Your voice in prayer and your voice in praise and worship is as unique as your fingerprints and can only be given by you. It changes you and the power of your testimony changes the community around you.

DISCUSS/JOURNAL

1. Anguish of our soul can move us (read **1 Samuel 1:15-16**) to a place where we are more interested in deliverance than our dignity. What is God more interested in and why?
2. Why does Jesus ask when he knows the answer?

ACTIVATION

Pray: Father we thank you that we are surrendering ourselves to this moment. We may not see you, but you are here and in the moments that we have, take this word and by the power of your Holy Spirit, we invite you to show us something like we've never seen before for what we need right now. Open our eyes.

Close your eyes, as a physical posture of “blindness”. Jesus is in front of you. Tell him you want to see into your marriage, into your children, into your workplace, into your needs and desires. Now listen. What do you hear? Find scriptures that speak into your situation. Psalms is a good place to search. Declare it out loud and make your voice known.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Bartimaeus was actually appropriately named. By faith are we saved and become the children of God, the Most important, the Most esteemed, the Most respected Father. Encountering Jesus always restores us to our true identity. Bartimaeus mattered to Jesus, so do you.

PROVIDE US WITH FEEDBACK

We are excited about the potential these studies have to help each of us process the weekend message at a deeper level, and to see God change our lives in significant ways. In order to make these guides as helpful as possible, we would love to hear which elements are most helpful, which are least helpful, as well as any other comments, questions or suggestions. Feel free to send your feedback directly to Jon Holmberg at jonrholmberg@gmail.com.

We are looking for writers! If you this is something you feel God is putting on your heart and you are hesitant to make the first step or just don't know how to make it happen, give me a call and we can discuss! Email me, Jon Holmberg, at jonrholmberg@gmail.com.

REFERENCES