

When Jesus touches you, it is life-changing. That is why we began this series called "The Touch Of Jesus."



We saw last time how He touched the heart of Mary who was compelled to sit at His feet and absorb the words which He spoke. That's because His touch made her heart new and hungry for new things, God's things.

When He walked with the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, He spoke the Scriptures to them and their hearts were rekindled again from a great discouragement.

He touched the fishermen in such a way, that they left their nets and followed Him to live for a higher cause.

But Jesus touches not only the heart. Today we meet a man named Bartimaeus. It was his lucky day because this is the day Jesus touched His eyes.

Mk 10:46 *Then they *came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.*

Physically blind Bartimaeus represents those who are spiritually blind. Both have either limited or no eyesight.

Jesus talked about the religious leaders, the Pharisees. He said; *they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.*

How dangerous it is to be led by those who are spiritually blind. (They don't know Christ)

Back to Bartimaeus:

v.47 *When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

Ha!

He couldn't see, but he could hear.

But there was opposition to his need:

v.48 *Many were sternly telling him to be quiet,*

"be quiet" hush, silence, (Bartimaeus)

They were probably louder in telling him to be quiet than he was actually crying out.

OH,

The voices of opposition speak loudly, don't they!

They are all around us.

but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Oh, he's thinking:

Do you know what it is like to be blind?

Do you know how I struggle, how I feel?

Do you know how difficult life is for me?

And you are telling me to be quiet!

Bartimaeus knew his need. The positive aspect of physical blindness is that you know you cannot see.

But with spiritual blindness, people think they can see, but they actually cannot.

And,

Do you know what?

Jesus did have mercy on him

v.49 *And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they *called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."*

v.50 *Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.*

Look at how different Jesus is from the crowd.

The man they rejected, Jesus accepted.

The man they tried to silence, Jesus heard him.

The man they tried to keep away, Jesus called him near.

Why is Jesus doing this?

Because He is going to give him a touch that will change his life forever.

v.51 Here is a weird scene, so you might think.

And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Jesus asked a blind man what he wanted Him to do for him.

It's a little obvious, isn't it.

Like asking a hungry person if they want something to eat.

Perhaps Jesus wants us to articulate our need so we really know what we are asking.

And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!"

Apparently, he once could see!

v.52 *And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."*

"well" sozo – to save

Ie.

Your faith has saved you.

This man acted on what little he knew about Jesus and received physical and spiritual sight.

Before his healing, he was lost in the dark:

- No beauty
- No people
- No children
- No birthday cakes
- Had no opportunity to work

But now;

He is saved from his dilemma by the touch of Jesus.

Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

What can we learn from this episode with Bartimaeus?

1. Bartimaeus could not see, but he could hear. As with us, anyone without Christ is spiritually blind, but you can hear. You can hear me present the gospel and you can sense God's calling you.
2. When people tried to hinder him, he just got louder. He knew what he needed. He knew nothing else was working for him and he needed a touch from Jesus.
3. When Jesus called him, he threw off his coat so he could move quickly. He got rid of what would hinder him.

Is there anything hindering you from getting close to Jesus?

- Job?
- Activity?
- Sin?
- Person?
- Spouse?
- Your own unbelief?

The Touch Of Jesus

Heb 12:1 *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

V.2 *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,*

4. Bartimaeus confessed his need.
We have to be honest with ourselves.
He said, "I am blind and I want to see."
Isn't that true for any of us?

We are all born spiritually blind, but does everyone want to see?

Jesus said; *If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!* Mt 6:23

Be honest about yourself and your need.
Let Jesus touch you today and give you sight and along with it, you will get understanding.