**“Do it for Me Lord”**

Mark 10:46-52

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I love this text for so many reasons. It speaks to one’s faith, one’s predicament and one’s ability to fight for forward despite circumstances.

For me, this speaks volumes about the reality of our lives sometimes. While we may not always be incapacitated physically by blindness, we sometimes are blinded by life situations that leave us on the side of the road begging for scraps. While we may not be physically blind, sometimes we are spiritually blind. I think some of us if we are honest have been blinded in relationship. We have been blinded by wealth, we have been blinded by culture, we have been blinded by organization affiliations, even deeper some blinded by drugs and alcohol if you will. Life can be blinding and if we are not careful and don’t not recalibrate our eyesight we are susceptible to this story to not see clearly.

I often wonder in my query of this text is it really about faith, because to me Bartimeaus seems very matter of fact about faith and what he wants. His desire for sight is clear unlike are friend who lays by the pool of Siloam In John’s Gospel. It interesting that Jesus ask hm a similarly question but his response seemed to be more of an excuse, rather than a clear concise, “I want you to dip me in the pool.” I’m wondering If sometimes our deliverance is delayed because our desire for help is not clear. I wonder if we get lost in our stuff so much so that when help shows up we don’t know how to say what it is we need.

I am often guilty of not asking for help when I need it. Sometimes needing help and not saying nothing and making excuses of why I am what I am into. When if I just ask for what I need I might be able to progress and move on down the road. But I dare not say that sometimes we like to stay stuck in what we in, because as long as I in this, I don’t have to be responsible for it, I can get sympathy for it, I get hand out for it, I can slide under the radar in it, I can live less than in it…by the way wasn’t he blind too…..

Yet in this story of Bart my Spirit are lifted because here is a fellow whose said, My life is more than my predicament. My life is more than my disability, my life is more than standing on this corner asking for money, my value is more than what I’ve been through, my purpose is not tied to my condition, but it is tied to my destiny. Though I might have started out one way, I know that my healing is near. I know that the answer to my problems is ahead. I know that there is deliverance for me. I m not going to always be like this. I’m not going to always be in this condition. I’m not going to always be sick. I’m not going to always be broke, im not going to always be down. Something greater is coming for me…I might can’t see it right now, but I can feel it and I can hear it and I can sense it.

I don’t know about you, but I got a good feeling that everything is going to be alright. God is going to turn it around; Jesus is going to work it out for me. Do it for me Lord

May I share with you my own journey. A little time ago I was diagnosed with a terminal sickness and the doctor had given me a life sentence and told me that for the rest of my life I was going to live this way. My reality is that when I was told this depression set in. I begin to believe the report of the doctor. Life seemed grim, I did not have a good outlook on life, did not want to go out the house. I remember early on I would cry and tears just seemed to fall from my eyes daily. I was blind and crippled with fear and doubt and distress and seemingly disease. I remember at some point of wallowing in my own despair and coming to the truth that if I preach about Jesus being a healer, than I have to believe that if can heal others, why in the world could he not heal me. If I preach about faith and that faith is the substance of things hoped for, that same hope has to be found in my predicament. If I preach that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him, why in the world would he not reward me. After all I work for him, my 9-5 is His business, I mean employed by His folk, I have a direct line…what is the deal Jonathan, I don’t know what happen, but what I do know is something as the old church folk used to say quickened in my Spirt and I decided that I was not going to believe the doctor, but I was going to believe the report of the Lord. His report says, he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and by his stripes we are healed……I choose to believe the report of the Lord.

I got on that phone and called that doctor and said you wrong. I am going to live. I am going to get better, I am going to soar…you just watch. I remember I had to encourage myself in the Lord. If you did it for mama em, you can do it for me. If you brought the Children of Israel through the Red Sea, you can bring me through my Sea of Doubt and Despair. If you can raise the dead, then you can my capacity for life. I became clear about what I wanted the Lord to do for me.

Here just a few nuggets for you to ponder this week in your life.

**1.) Know the Source**

-Know from where your help comes. Your help is not from Google even though it can be knowledgeable.

-Your healing is not from doctors. Com

-If we are honest all help aint good help

-Sometime we ask for help in the wrong place and they keep us stuck rather than going forward.

-Bart knew where to ask for help at. One text tells us that he was at the city gate. Why where he there, because he knew that the travelers had to come through the gate and when they came rough the gate that was the right time to hit them up for a little change.

-It always baffles me in my newness here why people stand on 75/85 ramps and ask for change, but then it dawned on e, because of the congestion, cars are going slow enough to read there sign and give a little change out the window. That genius, they must make bank….

-It not the doctor or the lawyer, it is not the preacher or the teacher. It not on your IG or your Facebook or Twitter account. You not going to find it on Tik Toc. Your source is Jesus.

**2.) Keep Hollering**

-My mama told me this and its true, “A closed mouth don’t get fed.” In other word open up your mouth and make some noise.

-Pray for me I’m conflicted on how to cheer for baseball National League Championship. Do I root for the Dodgers, or do I root for the Braves? My home team is LA and being a native, but boy, I’m now living in Atlanta. I was at the battery the other day and I had on both my Dodger Championship Shirt on and my Atlanta braves hat….I was yelling at the top of my lungs for both teams and it was a riveting game.

My point is that if we can cheer on our favorite sports team when it come time for us to seek God why don’t we use that same posture. I know we are Lutheran and we are a little more reserved and quiet in worship, but I gaurrentte you there is a time when you will make some noise concerning your level of deliverance. I remember my own story and crying out, Lord heal my body. I didn’t care who heard me, I didn’t care who was around, I dint care what they though about me. All I know ids there is nothing that can shut up my praise and my thanksgiving for the Lord.

When I think about the goodness of Jesus and all He has done for me, my soul cries out Hallelujah thank God for saving me.

I Will Dance, I Will Sing, To Be Mad For My King.  
Nothing, Lord, Is Hindering The Passion In My Soul.

And I’ll Become Even More Undignified Than This.

-They tried to shut Bart up, but Bart kept on Hollering

-They tried to quiet him down, but Bart kept on Hollering

-They tried to silence Him, but Bart hollered all the More

-His healing was present

-His deliverance had come through

-His appointment with the divine was on time

-His hook up with the Holy arrived

-His shift was in the vicinity

-His was about to change

-Do if or me Lord, what you did for my friend with the issue of blood

-Do it for me Lord, what you did for my friend Jairus’ daughter

-Do it for me Lord, what you did for my friend the widow’s son on the way to the grave

-Do it for me Lord, what you did for my friend the paralytic

-Do it for me Lord, what you did for my home girl at the well

-It is me, It is me oh Lord standing in the need.

-I would have hollered too

-Holler if you hear me.

**3.) Lay Aside Everything that gets in your Way**

-The text says that when Jesus came, He threw off His cloak

-A cloak is like a heavy jacket. It is a outer garment.

-It can also be said that a cloak can hide identity of a person

-I like to add that perhaps yeah, it was cold, but also perhaps it is our security blanket

-I like to think of this perhaps as a mat, a pacifier, a procession, a symbol of security

-He threw what was holding him together away

-He threw his garment that was keeping him hidden away

-He threw it away.

-He sacrificed what he had, for what he needed

-What are you willing to give up in order to get what you need from the Lord

-What are the excuses we need to stop making?

-What are the plan that we need to lay aside?

-What are the relationship we need to let go off?

-what are the stories we need to stop telling?

-What are you holding onto that you need to let it go of?

-I have found that when you release it, God will provide

-Lord, I release my health to your care.

-Lord, I release my children into your care.

-Lord, I release my finances into your care.

-Lord, I release my business into you care.

-Lord, I place my family in your care.

-Lord, I place my church in your care.

The text says immediately, he was healed…..

God can do for you instantaneously what sometimes we search a lifetime for in the wrong direction. We just have to trust.

My prayer is that we follow Jesus. That we keep our eyes on the perfector of faith. That we don’t lose sight of God’s bigger plan for our lives and even amid our challenges, we know that God is always working behind the scenes. Even when we have shaky faith, like Bart, with boldness we can ask for what we want and trust that God will provide.

There is a song by Timothy Wright and all it does it just call His name and reminded that wherever you are and what ever you need, just call his name.

Jesus

Savior

Healer