

Your Faith Has Made You Well October 24, 2021

Mark 10:46-52

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." 52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Jesus went throughout Galilee and the surrounding area focused primarily on teaching about God - the will of God, and the Kingdom of God. He taught in the villages, countryside, and synagogues. After being acknowledged as the Messiah he began his journey to Jerusalem because his true mission was one of salvation. This is something that only he could do because he is the Son of God. Only the Son of God is worthy, or has a high enough value to pay a ransom for the world. So, he has to go to Jerusalem, he has to suffer and die. Crucifixion is not an accident of unfortunate events; Jesus deliberately embraced it for our redemption.

The Scripture takes place in Jericho approximately 27 miles north east of Jerusalem. There was a large crowd that was following him to Jerusalem. It is here while he is on his way to Jerusalem that he encounters a blind beggar. The man calls out to him "Jesus, Son of David." This is significant because the man identifies Jesus as the Messiah. Son of David was synonymous with the Messiah because it was known that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David. The people were looking for Jesus as the Messiah to be a warrior king that would inflict pain and suffering on their enemies. This is in direct contrast to who Jesus is and what he has been teaching. When the man calls out through the noise of the crowd, some members of the crowd try to silence him. Jesus stopped and paid attention to the man that was the lowest on the social scale. The people who tried to silence the man did so because their attitude was that this man is being a nuisance. Jesus pays the man the ultimate compliment. He stops the parade and pays attention to the need. His action tells the person that you are somebody important. This is the kind of respect and assurance that we all need.

This particular Scripture sometimes gets abused within contemporary society from people who have not learned lessons of the Bible. This is why correct doctrine is so important. When you study the Bible you are better able to recognize when scriptures get abused by authoritarians that teach human precepts as doctrine. Take Job for example, his friends pleaded with him to repent because they associated his hardship with sin. Their hasty conclusion was based on a questionable premise. They made an assumption that was based on their opinions instead of facts. Therefore, their misunderstanding caused them to make the wrong conclusion which then caused them to blame the victim instead of helping him.

The Bible teaches us that this miracle is due to faith but it is important for us to understand how it is that it is his faith that made him well. Some prefer to think that faith has miraculous healing qualities. That is an opinion, it is not what the Bible teaches. His faith made him well because his faith brought him to Jesus, his faith got him to shout out to Jesus, his faith got him to recognize Jesus, and his faith got him recognized by Jesus. His faith in Jesus is what made him well, not through magic, but through his response to his faith. It is his response to faith that prompted Jesus to heal him. His faith was the catalyst that set up the events. Therefore, it is his faith that made him well.

The contemporary lesson for us is to recognize the contrast in character between the people that are following Jesus. There is the crowd. This is the majority of the people. They do not have compassion on needy, in fact they are rude, discriminatory, and negligent. The crowd follows Jesus because they want something for themselves. The crowd that follows Jesus follows him without following his character. Then there are the disciples. This is a very tiny portion of the crowd. They not only follow Jesus but they also follow the character of Jesus.

You have a successful ministry here. You have years of success in ministry because of your faith. It is because of your faith that you hold true to doctrine. This has provided you with stability and fortitude in the face of decaying faith within our society. You have been strong during hard times because it is your faith that has made you well.