

MAXIMIZING YOUR MIRACLE

God has granted us sight; let us not continue to live as if we are still blind.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When we're first introduced to Bartimaeus from Mark 10:46-52, he is sitting on the side of the road, begging. His blindness has sidelined him, reducing him to an afterthought in the society of the day.
- ❖ Bartimaeus understood his condition. His blindness kept him from working, making him unable to support himself, so he had to resort to begging. His was a harsh reality, and he was under no illusions about where he was in the pecking order of things. It is because Bartimaeus understood his condition that he could recognize how meaningful it was when Jesus passed by. He wasted no time and began to loudly cry out.
- ❖ We ourselves are not blind beggars living in ancient Israel, but many of us are spiritually blind. The tragedy is that, unlike Bartimaeus, we often fail to recognize the truth of our situation.
- ❖ How many times do we mess up in life, believing we know best? "It's my life; I'll do what I want." Meanwhile, we're stumbling around, blind, walking into walls or tripping and falling. We cause chaos—not only for ourselves but also for others. And then we come to church on a Sunday, go to the altar and cry, and after crying, we feel better and get up.
- ❖ But do you realize that we confuse feeling better with being able to see? We're still blind! How much more of this are we willing to endure before we cry out to God for mercy?
- ❖ Bartimaeus reached that point. He recognized that he couldn't save himself from his predicament, so he cried out for mercy. He needed Jesus to intervene, to act in his situation, because if Jesus didn't step in, he would be a blind beggar for the rest of his life.
- ❖ One of the weaknesses of growing up in a hyper-individualistic culture like ours is that we develop an unconsciously overinflated view of ourselves. We think we're in control, even though we're not. There comes a point where we must recognize that we cannot win the fight by ourselves or even save ourselves. There comes a point where we have to realize that a promotion or relationship or therapy isn't going to save us. Only Jesus can.
- ❖ Not that we shouldn't work hard, pursue relationships, or seek counseling. Rather, we need to recognize the difference between *helping* and *saving*. Lots of things *help*. But only Jesus *saves*. "Salvation is found in no one else..." (Acts 4:12).
- ❖ This is why Bartimaeus shouted for Jesus. People tried to quiet him down, but he wouldn't be deterred. He kept shouting, giving it all he had. He was going to have an encounter with Jesus because he recognized that only Jesus could save him.
- ❖ Notice the faith Bartimaeus possessed. When Jesus called him, he threw away his cloak *before* he was healed (Mk. 10:49-50).
- ❖ As a blind beggar, his cloak was a critically important possession and was perhaps the only item he owned. But when Jesus called, Bartimaeus knew in his bones that he wasn't going to need that cloak anymore.
- ❖ Today, Jesus is calling us. We may not be able to save ourselves, but right now Jesus is reaching for us. He is ready and willing to save us. Will we respond with faith? Will we put down our

KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:46-52

(all scriptures in text are in NIV unless otherwise noted)

"cloak" and find what we need in Him?

- ❖ After being saved by Jesus, Bartimaeus did something incredible: he maximized his miracle. Bartimaeus used his sight to follow Jesus along the road. His life and situation were changed by Jesus; he wasn't going to lose sight of Him. Each step he took was one of faith and obedience in the right direction.
- ❖ Paul says it this way: "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (See Romans 6:1-5.)
- ❖ The grace of God in our lives is not a license to continue in sin. When we receive His grace and His mercy, when we are saved and raised to new life in Him, we actually have to follow Him.
- ❖ Imagine if Bartimaeus, with renewed sight, had sat back down on the ground, put his cloak back on, and resumed begging. We can all agree that something is drastically wrong with that picture. When God's mercy is activated in our lives, and if we continue in sin, something is drastically wrong. When God restores your sight, don't continue living as if you're blind.
- ❖ There is a tremendous grace upon our church. What we must now do, like Bartimaeus, is follow Jesus. After receiving our sight, let's not go back to begging. Let's focus on Jesus and become what He created us to be.
- ❖ Let's leave sin in the past and encourage each other to godliness. From this day forward, let's follow Jesus. Not culture, not foolishness, not gossip—but Jesus.
- ❖ "...Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus..." (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- ❖ Now that we have received our sight, let's fix our eyes on Jesus and do what He has called us to do.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Mark 10:46-52. Discuss the words Bartimaeus cried out and the crowd's response. What was the immediate and long-term impact on his life from his encounter with Jesus?
2. Bartimaeus needed to be cured of physical blindness. When it comes to spiritual blindness, is it easy/hard for people to recognize it within themselves? What can help us identify it? According to Scripture, how do we address it (e.g., Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:16)?
3. What might Bartimaeus throwing aside his cloak before being healed reveal about his faith?

PRAYER TIME

Open my eyes, Lord, that I might see Your goodness.
Guide my steps that I may follow You. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🗨️ (Think about)
! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: What room could you navigate with your eyes closed? What happens when something is out of place?

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. students and teachers in our schools, colleges, and universities

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;
Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



BEREAN BIBLE STUDY

We look forward to growing in God's Word with you!

Date: Every Monday @ 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
on Zoom and YouTube.

Contact: Pastor Chris Simpson

WEDNESDAY CORPORATE BIBLE STUDY

Date: Every Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person. Contact Pastor Chris Simpson for further information.

STOREHOUSE

The following items are needed in the Storehouse:
corned beef, sweet milk/evaporated milk, sardines,
tuna, baked beans, oil, toothpaste, and coffee.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Contact: Bro. Richard or Sis. Naomi Daley



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...."
Hebrews 12:1-2 (NTV)

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