

信心的眼见——马可福音 10:46-52

The Sight of Faith—Mark 10:46-52

Introduction and Outline

- Scripture reading: Mark 10:46-52; John 17:24-26; 2 Cor 4:3-6; 1 Peter 1:8-9
Mark 10:46-52 (NASB 1995)
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. 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!” 48 Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 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.” 50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. 51 And answering him, Jesus said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And the blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!” 52 And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.
- *"Better to be blind and see with your heart than to have two good eyes and see nothing."* — Blind author Helen Keller
- In the Gospels, Jesus healed many blind people. However, not all blind who were healed have gained spiritual sight to see Jesus in their heart. But this blind man in today’s scripture, he had seen Jesus in his heart even before he saw him with his eyes. As one who has never seen any miracle with physical eyes, his spiritual eye has already been opened by God to see Jesus as his Savior, his only hope for life.
- Outline:
Title: The Sight of Faith
 1. Faith Sees the Lowliness of Self (v.46)
 2. Faith Sees the Greatness of the Savior (v.47)
 3. Faith Sees Not the Opposition of Others (v.48)
 4. Faith Sees the Joy of Being Called (vv.49-50)
 5. Faith Sees the Practical Needs (v.51)
 6. Faith Sees and Longs to See More (v.52)

Faith Sees the Lowliness of Self (v.46)

- “a blind beggar”: One cannot go lower on social status than this. The rich young ruler in the previous passage couldn’t have eternal life because he was too proud to see his lowliness. On the contrary, Bartimaeus saw his humbleness easily. Blindness not only deprives one’s ability to work but also gets discrimination from others, for in their social context, blindness was regarded as a curse from God. Such people, they say, are very bad sinners punished by God (*c.f.* John 9:1-3).
- “Jericho”, a rich and prosperous city. In Deuteronomy it’s called the “City of Palms” because of its abundance of palm trees. The Jewish historian Josephus described Jericho as a little paradise and said it was one of the richest places in all of Israel.

- “With His disciples and a large crowd”. Jericho is on the main road to Jerusalem. Every year during Passover, the entire city is filled with pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem. This must’ve been a very big scene. The crowds, driven by unprecedented religious fervor, were eager to get ahead and catch a glimpse of Jesus. This is why, in Luke, Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector, had to climb a sycamore tree to see Jesus, as it was impossible to get through the crowd due to the madness of the people.

【Insight】 In such a huge zealous crowd, there’s no biblical account of anyone getting truly saved. No sign of true faith was seen on anyone except the blind beggar Bartimaeus and tree-climbing Zacchaeus. Only Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus left a legacy of genuine faith, making them stand out from the crowd as genuine followers of Jesus. Both were despised by the society, and both knew their lowly status.

Faith Sees the Greatness of the Savior (v.47)

- “When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David...”: the crowd only said Jesus was a Nazarene (Luke 18:37), yet he by faith called him Son of David, who is God’s promised King to David who will reign in his throne forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16).

【Theological footnote】 The Old Testament is full of prophecies regarding this coming King. He is the seed of Eve who will **completely destroy Satan** (Genesis 3:15); He is the offspring of Abraham in whom **all the families of the earth will be blessed** (Genesis 12:3); Isaiah says He’ll be called **Mighty God, Eternal Father** (Isaiah 9:6); Micah says His going forth are **from eternity past** (Micah 5:2). These concepts are all encompassed in the title “Son of David”. The full meaning of this title completely transcends Jesus’ humanity.

【Comparison】 The crowd said Jesus of Nazareth passed by; the religious leaders slandered him as being possessed by Satan; but Bartimaeus cried out: Jesus is the Son of David! **God has already granted him saving faith**, which has enabled him to see Jesus as **the Savior foretold in the Scripture**.

- "have mercy on me!": An expression of both unworthiness that deserves nothing good and a recognition of God's compassionate heart. **One of the must-have outcomes of seeing the greatness of the Savior is to cry out for His mercy.**

【Principle】 True believers, when seeing their various predicaments, will cry out for the Lord’s mercy. They not only see their physical needs but also their spiritual lostness and helplessness. **Even though they know full well that they are unworthy of any better treatment, they still cry out for God’s mercy because He is a Savior full of compassion.**

Faith Sees Not the Opposition of Others (v.48)

- "Many were sternly telling him to be quiet”: as if he had done something terribly evil. They obviously thought this blind man was unworthy to approach Jesus and that Jesus would not pay attention to him. True faith often faces obstacles from others.

【Example】 A brother's church experience: During a worship service, a few newcomers came, saying, 'We have just been released from prison and want to find a place to worship God.' The coworker responded, 'Sorry, we don't welcome your kind of people.'"

- "But he kept crying out all the more...": True believers' faith is not afraid of obstacles! The Canaanite woman demonstrated the same persistence (Matthew 15:21-28). Jesus said God would respond to the disciples' **persistent pleas** (Luke 11:8), and He taught the disciples to "**always pray and not lose heart**" (Luke 18:1-8). Even when facing hindrances from others, one should not lose heart.

【Application】 As long as it is a genuine burden in your heart, you should bring it to the Lord regardless of obstacles. The more obstacles, the more fervent your prayers should be, just like Bartimaeus, who cried out all the more to Jesus.

One pastor says, "*When God intends a mercy for his people, he stirs up the spirit of prayer in them. ... Pray fervently or you do nothing. Cold praying is no more prayer than a painting of fire is fire. How can prayers that do not even warm your own heart move God's? A fervent prayer will never find a cold reception with God.*"

Faith Sees the Joy of Being Called (vv.49-50)

- “And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him here.”: We’ll get Jesus’ mercy whenever we're willing to call upon Him.
- “Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.”: One moment ago the crowd was rebuking him and telling him to be silent; the next moment, after Jesus called him, they immediately changed their tune. The fervent crowd is easily swayed.

【A Thought】 I have never had a particular interest in large crowds. The only large crowd that interests me is the one that will meet the Lord Jesus in the clouds at His return, consisting of all the saints. In that crowd, every individual will be fully sanctified, body and soul. They will no more wreak havoc by their fleshly mind, but will render perfect submission to all of Jesus’ guidance.

- "Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.": His heart was filled with uncontrollable excitement! For beggars, the cloak is an important tool for making a living. They'd lay their cloak in front of them to collect alms from passersby. Bartimaeus' cloak likely had some coins and food on it, but he was so eager to reach Jesus that he didn't bother to gather his belongings. He just threw it aside. You can almost hear the coins clinking as they scattered on the ground, but he didn't care at all.

【Insight】 The joy of being called! When true believers hear Jesus' call, they're overjoyed with a joy inexpressible and full of glory. Though Bartimaeus had never seen Jesus with his physical eyes, his spiritual eyes had been opened by God, and he had already seen the joy of being called. So, when he heard Jesus calling him, he jumped up immediately with excitement.

1 Peter 1:8: and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

【Application】 Every time we open the Bible, we can hear Jesus calling us in a very true sense. He calls us through the Scriptures to trust in this mighty God more fully. Bible reading, prayer, and church life are all places where Jesus calls us to meet Him. These activities are not dull religious duties but are sources of immense joy.

Faith Sees the Practical Needs (v.51)

- “And answering him, Jesus said, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’”: A blind man standing right there—couldn't Jesus see what he wanted? Did he really need to say it out loud? Without even having to use His divine omniscience, anyone knows what a blind man wants. But Jesus wanted him to speak his request! One of the signs of true faith is expressing our specific requests to the Lord. **James 4:2:** 'You do not have because you do not ask.'
- “Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!”: Simple and straightforward. Say it and mean it. Simple faith is not pretentious or affected. True faith recognizes that God cares about all the specific needs in our lives by telling them to Him clearly and plainly in prayer.

Faith Sees and Longs to See More (v.52)

- “Go; your faith has made you well.”: The Greek is “your faith has saved you”. More than mere physical healing, Jesus proclaimed salvation to his soul. The first sight he saw when he opened his once blind eyes was the face of his beloved Lord Jesus, his great Savior! So, he...
- “began following Him on the road”: Because he just can't have enough of gazing at the face of Jesus. His faith was not just a faith for wanting to be healed, but a faith of seeking God. His ultimate goal was not to be healed, but to follow Jesus. His faith has indeed saved him, for he'll be eternally satisfied with the supreme joy of seeing Jesus face to face.