

## He is calling you

17122023 Ps Bijoy

Mark 10: 46-52

<sup>46</sup> Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” <sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

<sup>52</sup> “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark chapter 10 verses 46 through 52 a very familiar passage of Scripture this is the story of a blind man by the name of Bartimaeus and he was blind all his life. This man was blind he did not have social security, nor did he have any strong supporting system to have a safety net. And every morning his family who will take him by the roadside so that he can beg. I can imagine blind Bartimaeus thinking about a day where you be able to take a day off or two to just stay home without going. what it means if he does not go by the roadside and beg, so there wouldn't be any food for him. He was in a miserable condition, and he was tired of this condition. He couldn't see anything. Just imagine if you have no eyes if you have

no sight, you have no vision what would life look like. This was the life of Bartimaeus, he was known in the community as that blind man. He was known as a beggar in the community and one day Jesus was passing by. Bartimaeus heard a crowd passing by and probably said to himself this is a great day I may get more money. I sense a lot of people coming, I can hear the crowd. I may get a lot of money and get myself a break. So I can imagine himself saying if I can get some extra dollars I may take myself a small vacation and stay home and then I'll not come here tomorrow to sit by the roadside. And then something happened. He heard the crowd passing by and nobody's giving any money, he urged the crowd passing by to give him something. But he didn't get anything, and verse 47 says "When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

It's very interesting here, He has never seen Jesus before. How do I know? Because He is blind. However, he would have heard a lot about Jesus and his miracles. So he had an idea of who Jesus is. Furthermore, it's quite interesting to see that he cried out saying "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" In fact, this is the first place in the bible where someone calls Jesus as son of David. And that too by a blind man. What's the significance of Son of David. You can't call anyone and everyone as son of David. It's a title for Messiah. Scripture says "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So whatever Bartimaeus heard about Jesus produced faith in him and his spiritual eyes were opened to see that this miracle performing Jesus is not just a prophet, but He is the Messiah. This is at a time when all the pharisees and Sadducees accused Jesus as a false prophet. The people who knew torah and the prophecies concerning the messiah didn't realise that the person walking in front of them is the messiah, although their physical eyes were open but their spiritual eyes were blind. And here comes a blind man, his physical eyes are closed but God opened his inner eyes to see the truth of Jesus. All of our knowledge and understanding must lead us closer to Jesus, not just intellectually but spiritually. So as soon as He knew Jesus was passing by, He cried out to Jesus in faith. Faith makes you take bold steps. Faith helps you to trust in God irrespective of the possibility/impossibility.

I can get my vision today if only I can get the attention of Jesus I can so he started shouting "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus son of David have mercy on me." He knew his condition he knew he was a blind man and he was not afraid to ask for help. He refused to be embarrassed by

shouting/crying to God for help. People who were around him started discouraging him, telling him you are making a fool of yourself. Do you really think this man, Jesus has time for you. You are a blind man, He (Jesus) has more important things to do. He does not care about you, so shut up, shut up Bartimaeus. Noises and voices of unbelief are ringing all around him. There is a battle going on. Deep down His faith in Jesus is making him to cry out to God, but the people around him are trying to shut him off. My brothers and my sisters when you want to trust God there will always be somebody in the crowd who's going to come and discourage you. When you want to trust God there will always be some voices of people who will tell you we've never done this before, so this is not possible. There will always be somebody. But thanks to God, Bartimaeus the blind man refused to listen to the voices of discouragement. He shouted even more louder, "Jesus, son of David have mercy on me." This morning I have good news for you, Jesus heard the cry of Bartimaeus and He stopped in the midst of the crowd. So, it does not matter where you are in life God can hear your voice. Bible says God knows you by your name. You are not a number; you are not just a symbol. You are not someone among the many. You are valued and loved, and He knows you by Name. In the Gospel of John chapter 10 verse 3 Jesus said "I am the Good Shepherd and I know my sheep." Isaiah chapter 43 verses 1 and 2,

"But now, this is what the Lord says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.”

My brothers and sisters this is the basis of our identity and our self-esteem. God knows you by your name. And whenever you feel insignificant, whenever you are afraid I pray you will hear the voice of God telling you I know you by your name. So, Jesus stopped as he heard the voice of Bartimaeus and He said to the crowd bring him to me. And as they brought him to Jesus, He asked the blind Bartimaeus a question. what do you want me to do for you? And Bartimaeus replied ““Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” And Jesus replied ““Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.”

As we are in the Christmas season, I want to remind you today, that it is in Christ you find your life and vision. As He was walking in the streets of Jericho two thousand years ago, He is still here with us through His spirit and Word. Can you cry out to him? He is looking at you and asking “what can I do for you”?