



What Do You Want Me To Do For You?

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Lectio Divina: Read, Meditate, Pray, Contemplate, Act

Mark 10:46-52 ⁴⁶Then¹ they came to Jericho.² 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. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹**Jesus stopped** and said, “**Call him.**” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ⁵¹“**What do you want Me to do for you?**” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, **I want to see.**” ⁵²“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

1. Setting (geography, timing) and unfolding Story of “Bart” – takes place just as Passover was beginning (remotely like school start up!!)

2. Observations of Bar-timaeus: Named, blind, beggar, grasps who Jesus is (Son of David, messianic tone, mercy giver, object of faith, teacher, healer), seizes the day, vocally persists (despite of/“all the more”), confident expectation of transformation (cloak clue), “came to Jesus,” clearly asks for right thing, receives healing and follows Jesus along the road (along **the Way**, Acts 9:2). (see Is 35; 42:6, 7; John 9:1-2; 2 Cor 6:1,2; Zacchaeus in Lk 19:1-10).

¹ **Chapter 10 of Mark’s Gospel** finds Jesus moving from Perea **begins** in region of Judea with question of divorce (is it right?); **then** place of children; **then** rich man’s question (“Good teacher, what must I do to get the life that never ends?); **then** Jesus again foreshadows His death and resurrection; **then** James and John ask special favour; **then** Jesus reminds of His purpose “He came to serve others and to give His life to save many people;” **then** Bartimaeus in Jericho . . . **then** Jerusalem.

² **The world’s oldest continually-inhabited city**, according to our sources, archaeologists have unearthed the remains of 20 successive settlements in *Jericho*, dating back 11,000 years. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/galleries/The-worlds-20-oldest-cities/1old-jericho/>

Side Note: The Discouraging Gate Keepers (rebuke and be quieting)

a. What does it take to believe in someone you can't see (blind faith³ vs. reasonable and sensible faith)? Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:1, 6; Rom 10:17; Eph 2:8, 9)

b. If the sighted could only see: Helen Keller's – Three Days Essay: "My observation is that the seeing don't know how to see. At times my heart cries out with longing to see all these things. **If I were the president of a university I should establish a compulsory course in 'How to Use Your Eyes'**. **If I were granted three seeing days, to be followed by a relapse into darkness, I should divide the period into three parts: People, Human Soul, Human Spirit** <http://www.afb.org/info/about-us/helen-keller/books-essays-and-speeches/on-the-senses/three-days-to-see-as-published-in-atlantic-monthly-january-1933/12345>

c. Prone to blindness ("there is no one so blind as one who will not see"): "Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him"

- **Blinded:** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:4) Blind to what matters and partially blind (Mk 8:22-26; 1 Cor 2:4; Lk 24:13-35 – Psalm 119:18)
- **Self deceived** and "self-sufficient" Jeremiah 17:9 Believing we are in control til reality crashes our illusion; believing we can fix our own persistent issues
- **Spiritually blind:** Romans 3:10,12, 18 (Jesus and blind religious leaders (Mt 23:16, 17, 19, 24, 26).

3. Observations of Jesus: Moving through Jericho to Jerusalem, Jesus didn't respond immediately, but does stop, calls, invites others to assist, asks question, inspite of the obvious (do unto others as they would have you do unto them – dignity of choice), appreciates direct and faith response, heals, explains connections, moves toward Jerusalem (the Cross)

Side Note: The Encouraging Door Openers (cheer up, up you get, He's calling you)

4. Face-to-Face with the Lord Jesus Christ:

"O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Saviour, and life more abundant and free. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace." (Helen Howarth Lemmel, 1922)

5. What will you to do with Jesus' question: "What do you want me to do for you?"

The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.'" (Number 6:24-26)

³ **Belief without** true understanding, reason, revelation, perception, or discrimination