

HOLY LONGING

Mark 10:46-52

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. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

(continued...)

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

(continued...)

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."
And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 10:46-52

SEEING

Bartimaeus literally had blind faith.

"I want so badly to believe
That there is truth, that love is real.
And I want life in every word,
To the extent that it's absurd."

The Postal Service, "Clark Gable"

“I’m a dangerous man with some money in my pocket, keep up!”

Bruno Mars, "24k Magic"

"This sudden change of heart is a comic but realistic touch; charity, like hatred, can be contagious, and an authoritative figure's concern for the down-and-out can quickly convert popular hostility into benevolence."

Joel Marcus

"And Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'"

Mark 10:51

“What do you want?”

Bartimaeus wanted to see so he could follow Jesus.

"Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.'"

Mark 10:52

"And immediately he recovered his sight and followed Jesus on the way."

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"Bartimaeus, sensing this hidden dimension in Jesus' parting words, uses the freedom that Jesus has given him ('Go') to choose the life of discipleship that, with his restored vision, he perceives to be the logical consequence of the saving faith that has liberated him from darkness."

Joel Marcus