

Bartimeus

Doug Batchelor

Mark 10:46

Now we're talking this week about getting the victory over the crowd. Living above the crowd. Overcoming the temptation to be like the crowd. One reason that's so important is the Bible is very clear, 'Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and few there be that find it. Broad is the way, wide is the gate that leads to destruction and the crowd is on that road.' **If you want to get to heaven, you cannot think with a mob mentality.** You have to **be different**. It's never going to be popular in this life to be a real Christian. **Amen?** I listen sometimes to some of the preachers on TV, and they make it sound like the Millennium is going to be here on earth, and everybody's going to accept the Gospel and this is going to be a Christian nation once again.

That scares me when I hear those things. I do think that there's going to be a movement to try to push religion on everybody in the nation. And I see those things happening right now. And that's been foretold for a long time. But as far as really being Christians, that will never be popular. And then Christ said, '**You**

will be hated of all nations for my name sake.' The Millennium will not be here on Earth. A thousand years of rest will be after Christ comes. So, if we're going to be Christians, we must resist the temptation to think like and act like and do what the crowd does. One way that the devil is going to succeed in hypnotizing the masses, is through the media. **FRIENDS**, you need to have your filters on, if you're going to use the media. That's right, it's a very powerful tool. Radios are not evil. A radio is simply an electronic instrument. It depends what you listen to on the radio. Cassette players are not inherently evil. You can listen to Bible tapes; you can listen to Rock & Roll. A television set is simply an instrument that communicates audio/video information. They're not evil. You can use them as paperweights or anchors. Televisions are not inherently evil. It depends on whether you can control what you watch on television. And if you can't, then you need to tune it up, with a chain saw. Get rid of it, if you can't control what you're watching.

I have a TV in my home, but I don't even have a TV Guide. If you do have cable, you can have a parental lock on your system

to be able to control the things that are watched by your children, to guide them in developing their own decisions. If you're going to have a TV, make sure that you know how to be selective, be very selective, in what you watch, because you are who you are as a result of what you look at. The devil is going to succeed in manipulating the mobs. The devil is going to manipulate the masses using the media. If you're watching what everyone else watches, you will be one of the crowd. [Are you hearing me friends?](#) If you've got the input, the visual input the auditory input of the mob, you're going to end up thinking like the mob. You become like what you look at. If you want to be different, you better look at different things.

[Mark 10:46, "Then they came to Jericho, and as He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimeus, the son of Timeus sat by the roadside begging."](#) [Do you know where Jesus met Zaccheus?](#) In Jericho. He was going through Jericho, now He's going out the other side. These experiences may have happened the same day. Matter of fact, in context in Mark, it appears that they did, because this was the last week of

Christ's life. You look at Chapter 11; you've got the triumphant entry. The same thing happened, when we were reading in Luke. It was the last week of his life, going through Jericho, on His way to Jerusalem. These things happened the same day. He might have come from spending the night at Zaccheus house, having dinner there, and breakfast, and started on His way out of the city. Zaccheus was probably right next to Jesus. It was customary in Bible times to walk with a person as they were leaving.

[You remember when Ruth and Orhpah were walking with Naomi when she was leaving?](#) When Abraham was seeing the angels on their way...They used to walk with a person, part of the way, it was considered good manners. And I expect Zaccheus was walking out of the city with Jesus, to see Him on His way. The Bible doesn't mention him, because he was short, they couldn't see him, but he was probably there.

And the Bible says, ["with a great multitude."](#) There was a crowd again, all around Jesus. And again, it was a religious crowd. The Bible says there was a man; his name was Blind Bartimeus, the son of Timeus. Matter of fact, [the word Bar, means, 'son of'](#). So I

do not know why the Bible writer said, 'Son of Timeus, son of Timeus. His name was, son of Timeus. The word, 'Bar', Baraba, Barbabas, means son of the Father and Barnabas, son of constellation. You've heard of Bar-Jesus, in the Bible, 'son of Jesus' is what that means. Jesus was a common name in Bible times. It's the Greek form of Yashewa.

And so, here was this man, now incidentally, the word Timeus, means 'highly prized.' The son of one highly prized. Here was this blind man, begging. Now, in Bible times, they did not have welfare, social security, social assistance, any kind of handicap funding. Unless your family took care of you, you had one alternative, and that was to beg. And being a blind beggar on a city road was not a desirable occupation. They would station themselves strategically, at a place where there was a lot of traffic. They became very good at accenting their other senses where they could feel and hear more acutely what was going on around them, because they couldn't see, so they depended more on their other senses. They did not look very good, because they could not take good care of themselves. They didn't know what they looked like.

Sometimes the kids would make sport of them and trip them. Toss stones at them. Mock them.

You see, in Bible times, when a person was suffering from one of these disabilities, they assumed that there was sin in their life, and God was punishing them. Do you remember when they were walking out of the city in the Gospel of John, Chapter 9:2? There was a blind man, and the disciples said to Jesus, "Who sinned, that this man was born blind? Someone must have sinned. Was it his sin, if he was born blind, or his parents' sin? But obviously, he's suffering from somebody's sin. They even thought in Bible times, that God knew in advance if you were going to live a sinful life, He'd punish you in advance. That's what they believed. Remember, that's why they said, "Did this man sin?" And that's why he was born blind. You figure that out. They actually thought that God would punish a person in advance, because God knew he was going to be bad, so He said, 'I'm going to start you out with suffering.' Strange distorted views. You know even the friends of Job had the idea that bad things happen to bad people. When Job was suffering, 'He must have done something wrong.' The mes-

sage of Job and the message of Jesus is good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people. Jesus said the rain, and the sunshine comes on everybody. Amen? And if you're alive, you're going to get your share of both. You're going to have, bright mountains, high, and dark valleys low. Everybody's going to have a little of something. Well, they used to treat the beggars, and the blind people pretty raw, because they thought they were sinners, and that's why this was happening to them. You know, God told them not to do that. Matter of fact, in the book of **Deuteronomy, 27:18**, "And the blessings and the cursings." A curse was to be pronounced on anybody that made a blind person, to be turned out of the way. In other words, if you mocked or tripped a blind man, or if you deliberately led a blind man, so he bumped into a tree limb for sport, there was a curse pronounced on anyone who misled the blind.

Now, what does blindness represent in the Bible? What does vision represent in the Bible? **Spiritual understanding**. You know where Jesus said, 'If the blind lead the blind, they'll all fall into a ditch.' Right? Jesus said to the religious leaders, 'You're

blind guides." **Vision represented perception and spiritual understanding.** Our world is in a state of blindness. The world cannot see. One of the prophecies, about the Messiah is, **He would open the eyes of the blind. He would cause the people to see great light. And the most important light that could shed in our lives is the spiritual understanding.** What did Jesus say of the **Laodicean church?** "You're poor, and wretched, and miserable, and blind." You don't know where you're going. Now, I'm convinced a person cannot be happy, unless they understand some basics. **You need to know where you've come from, what you're doing here and where you're going.** There are many people who have been raised an Atheist, and you believe in evolution, life has no purpose; they don't really know where they came from. There's no purpose for being here, and they don't know where they're going. And many are miserable.

You know, I understand the #1 suicide group, in North America is the teenagers. **Are you aware of that?** And that group took over when evolution started being taught in the schools. When young people started being taught, that there is no purpose to life,

that we are all biological accidents, that we've evolved from nothing over millions of years and when we die, we turn back into nothing. And you're here for a little while to sense what's going on around you, contribute to the overall good and then you die. Well, that's not very fulfilling. It's sad that so many people believe it, and it doesn't offer much. It's empty, purposeless. And the world is living in blindness, darkness. One of the saddest things, is when a person is blind, and they don't know it. People who spend their lives groping in the darkness, and they're comfortable in that situation.

Bartimeus was a poor, blind beggar. He was wearing old rags, but you know the thing he had in his advantage, is **he knew his condition**.

There are a lot of people out there, and they're blind, and they don't know it. I heard about a lady named Rose Crawford. **True story**. The doctors removed the bandages, and she could see for the first time in her life, and all these colors flooded into her mind, and exploded in her brain, and she was just gasping. The sad thing was, she spent 30 years in blindness unnecessarily. They had

developed a procedure to restore her eyes 30 years earlier, and she thought, well, there's nothing that could be done, **so she stopped looking**. **Can you imagine being blind for 30 years unnecessarily?**

There are a lot of people in the world that fancy themselves religious experts, and they're really blind. One of the things that people say when they come to our evangelistic meetings, and they learn the truth about the Sabbath, and the state of the dead, they say, 'I see this in the Bible, and it's very clear when I hear you, but if it's true, **why all these other religious leaders, good men, do not know these things?**' They're well educated, they've studied, and **why don't they see it?** And you know, I don't have a good answer for them, except to say this:

Friends, it's always been that way, the people who crucified Jesus were very well educated religious leaders. Don't wait for the crowd to see the truth friends. It doesn't always happen that way.

You know, I understand, **Michelangelo**, when he was a budding artist, he tried to get some of the great art critics in Italy to notice his work, and they looked at the work of Michelangelo, and they said, '**You're an amateur, just an amateur**'. Well, he knew he

wasn't an amateur. He knew that his art was the best there was. He knew good art. You know what he did. Back then; they were already beginning to excavate ancient art from the ruins of Greece, and Rome. They were digging up some of these old sites, and people were paying exorbitant prices, way back in the time of Michelangelo. While they were doing this archeology, Michelangelo did this beautiful statue, and he went to the archeological site, and he buried it. He tinted it yellow, and he buried it with a bunch of other ruins, and sure enough, they dug it up, and they were marveling over this marble masterpiece.

And all of the art critics in Italy came to look at it and they said there's nothing like it that we've ever seen, and they studied it's every crevice, and shape, and form, and curve, and started to bid. They were offering the highest price for this newly found work of art, and finally, Michelangelo said, 'I did that.' At first they didn't believe him, but he showed his stamp on the bottom. He showed the rocks from which he's chipped it. By then, they were pretty far out on a limb. And they said, 'Yeah, I guess you are a pretty good artist.'

They were the experts. And the experts are telling us right now that you, and I have evolved accidentally from nothing. When you think about it, that is the most absurd proposition in the world, to say that evolution is true, is to say that organization and inter-working systems come from chaos. In other words, you can throw a bomb in a print shop and when the dust settles, you have an encyclopedia. You can throw a bomb in a junkyard and when the dust settles, you'll have a Boeing 747, with all its inter-working systems. And the idea that you can get organization and inter-working systems, and symmetry, and design without a designer, is the most absurd thing in the world. And yet many educated people are believing, that all the organization, and the systems, and the relationships in the environment that we see around us, it happens spontaneously. There's not a single case of that anywhere. It is the most unscientific thing.

A lot of people in the world are living in darkness, and they think that they can see. **Bartimeus was blind, but he knew it!** Now as I said earlier, when you're blind, your other senses are more acute. His sense of hearing was very acute. And as he sat on the

roadside, and the multitudes would pass up, and down, he would hear snatches of conversations from all over the country, especially in Jericho.

Remember what I told you about Jericho. It was like Interstate 40, a lot of traffic, anything going on, went through Jericho. He heard about this Rabbi, who was doing miracles, matter of fact, he heard how He opened the eyes of the blind. You remember, in the Gospel of **Mark, Chapter 8**, Jesus opened the eyes of one blind man, and He did it in degrees. **How many of you remember that story?** Where He opened his eyes, not all at once, but little by little. **Have you ever wondered why Jesus did it like that? Why didn't He just say, 'See.'**? First he put some mud on his eyes, and he rubbed the mud off, **and he could see, men like trees walking.** It's kind of a blurry thing, you know. **Do you know why Jesus healed that man in degrees?** Because, that's how our spiritual understanding comes. Jesus was illustrating that we don't usually understand everything all at once, but He reveals things little by little.

How often did the disciples not completely understand what Jesus was saying? They'd hear a parable and then they'd come

back and say, **'Now, what did that mean?'** And even after His ministry, they said, **'Show us the Father.'** He said, **'Do you not get it, yet?** If you've seen me, you've seen the Father.' After His ministry, they said, **'Now, will you set up the kingdom of God here on Earth?'** He said, **'No, that's not the kingdom I came to set up the first time. You don't understand.'** **Their understanding came in degrees.** If you don't understand all at once, don't get discouraged; Jesus sometimes opens our eyes in degrees. **Amen?**

Bartimeus heard about this man that was healed. He heard the rumbling of the multitude passing up the street. They said, what does this mean, and someone said, **'It's Jesus of Nazareth, the Rabbi. He's on His way to Jerusalem for the Passover.'** As soon as Bartimeus heard that, he thought, this is my only chance. And the Bible says, **"And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and to say, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. Then many warned him to be quiet."** **Who was telling him to be quiet? The crowd. Who was in that crowd? It was a religious crowd.**

Who was the obstacle to Zaccheus seeing Christ? The crowd, religious crowd. Who is the obstacle to Bartimeus having his sight? The crowd, religious crowd getting in the way. They said, we're having the formal service; you're disrupting the service. You're making a spectacle. You're interrupting the parade. This is a procession. You're creating a nuisance. We're having special music right now. And he was calling out, 'Son of David, have mercy on me'. It's not dignified, Bartimeus. Be quiet.

You sometimes, I think we miss spiritual blessings, because we become so formal in the way we approach God. I believe we should always approach God reverently. But, I sometimes think that we are entrapped with this Victorian idea, about how to worship. At times, I get so frustrated with the way we do things, like robots, and soldiers. I think you should be reverent, I think things should be done orderly. I don't think God wants us to have confusing services, but you know, I just can't picture, on the day of Pentecost, Peter, and the twelve walking up the isle, hand in hand, standing, and sitting, and kneeling in a synchronized fashion. I think the Holy Spirit hit that group, and he jumped to his feet, and started

preaching. I don't think he had any notes. I think it came from the heart. I'm just telling you what's on my mind. I've never said this to people before, but sometimes, I go to churches and we go through the forms of a service, and when people leave, they're no different then when they came, because we're so precise. We're so formal. God is more interested in heart religion, than anything.

Bartimeus' prayer was not a formal prayer, but it was to the point. 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' You know, the best prayers are short, and to the point. Don't you come to my church, and pray a long prayer. The Bible said, 'The Hypocrites stand and pray long prayers, that they might be seen of men.' Time the Lord's Prayer. Jesus said, 'When you pray, pray in this manner.' Ever time the Lord's Prayer? It's less than a minute. You know why a lot of our young people are leaving church? Because we make religion tedious. It doesn't need to be that way. We make it so formal and plastic. It needs to be real, and from the heart, and it's not something we do once a week. It's all week long, and when you come to church, that's not the main course, that's the desert of what you had all week long.

I heard one time about Dwight Moody, who was having an evangelistic meeting, in Chicago, and one of the local elders was offering the prayer. Dwight had invited a friend, who was not a Christian; he finally got him to the meeting. He saw him sitting by the isle, and the man looked uncomfortable, and he was getting ready to preach, and he knew if this man could just hear him preach, he'll give his heart to the Lord. Before the service, this elder got up to do the prayer, he knelt, and he prayed, and he prayed, and he prayed, and he prayed a long pious prayer. And Dwight opened his eyes during the prayer, and looked at his friend, and he could see that he was shifting back, and forth, and reached for his armrest to get up. He was going to get up, and leave. And Dwight jumped to his feet, and he said; while our brother finishes his prayer, let's sing a hymn! **That's a true story.**

Do you know, you ought to go through the Bible, look at the different prayers in the Bible, and time them? Good prayers are to the point, I think we ought to pray all day long, pray without ceasing, be throwing prayers to God all day long, instead of one long one, then forgetting He's there. The Bible says two men went to

the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a Publican. Time the prayer of the Pharisee, then time the prayer of the Publican. **Which prayer was heard?** The Pharisee stands and prays thus with himself. **"Lord, I thank you I am not as other men. I pay tithe of all that I've got, I fast twice a week, I'm not an extortioner, or adulterer like this man back here."** It doesn't even say, that he said, Amen. He's going on, and on. But the Publican would not so much as lift up his eyes. But he bowed his head, and he smote on his breast. He said, **"Lord have mercy on me a sinner."** **But it was from the heart, wasn't it?** And he went down to his house, justified.

One of the most effective prayers in the Bible is when Peter was following Jesus on the water, and as he had his eyes on Jesus, he was walking above the storm. Incidentally friends, this is a lesson for victory. **If you're going to live the Christian life, it's a miracle. You and I cannot be Christians unless we experience an ongoing miracle. We're naturally prone to sin.** For you, and I to live the life of Christ, it's like walking on water. **But if you keep your eyes on Jesus, you can walk on water, can't you?** And as long as he had his eyes on Jesus, he was walking above the storm. He

took his eyes off Jesus, to see if his friends were watching. He was worried about the crowd, wasn't he? And he began to sink. And then he uttered one of the shortest prayers in the Bible. "Lord, save me." Did you know you can memorize a prayer that fast? It works! "Lord, save me!" But when you're going down, if he'd done a long prayer, it would have (glubb, glubb, glubb, taking on water-a drowning sound.) You've got to get to the point! My friends criticize me a lot, because I have a hard time, I'm an impatient person. Pray for me. It's a weakness I have. I like to get to the point, that's why I pack so much in a sermon. I want to get to the point. Some preachers take one verse, and talk 45 minutes; you still don't know what the point is, when they are done.

Bartimeus got to the point. Son of David, do you know what that means? He knew Jesus was the Messiah. 'Have mercy.' He needed mercy, he wasn't asking for justice. Even Bartimeus sinned.. You know, you don't have to blind to pray that prayer, do you? You can say, Lord save me. Lord have mercy on me a sinner, Son of David, have mercy on me. Did God answer those prayers? It's not that complicated friends. But the crowd, said, 'Shhhh.'

The crowd said, don't make a fuss. You're suffering because of your sins! What right do you have to ask Jesus, to stop the parade for you?

Now Bartimeus, like Zaccheus, could have thought, well, I'll catch Him next time He's coming through. I'll see if I can get to Him, without so many people around. I don't want to make a spectacle; it's embarrassing. Bartimeus wasn't really worried about everyone looking at him, because he couldn't see them looking at him, could he? It didn't bother him. He didn't really care what the crowd thought, because he couldn't see the crowd. Isn't that good news? Sometimes, you and I ought to be blind to the crowd, and listen to Jesus. I have alter calls at most of my services of one form or another. I usually make some kind of an appeal at the end of the sermon. And you'd be surprised, how many people hear the Holy Spirit calling them. They have tremendous conviction weighing upon them, but they're afraid of what the crowd is going to think, if they stand to their feet, or lift their hand, or come forward. And I could never figure that out, because God is watching us, angels are watching us.

We should be much more concerned about what He thinks, than what the sinners think. You know, Jesus said, 'If you are ashamed of me, in this evil, and sinful generation, I will be ashamed of you. But if you confess Me, before this sinful and evil generation, I will confess your name before my Father, and the angels in Heaven.' That ought to make you go, WOW! How would you like to have the Lord do for you, what He did for Job? When the Lord said to the devil, 'Have you considered my servant Job?' God Almighty, confessing the name of a mortal among spirits! Wouldn't you like to have the Lord confessing your name? Then don't be ashamed of His name. You might be in a crowd, don't be afraid to say, 'I believe in the Son of David.' Tell people you're a Christian. Tell them what you stand for. You'd be surprised how many people out there want to know.

You know, the Bible tells us that 'The harvest is great, but the laborers are few'. The people out there want to know, but the number of people who are willing to confess Son of David, in the multitude, is very small. Folks are afraid they're going to get ridiculed. They're afraid they're going to be looked down upon. I'd

like to tell you, I'm immune to that, but I'm not. There are times when I feel impressed to say something, and I'm afraid of what people are going to think. You know when it's the hardest, when you're around unbelieving family, because they know your weaknesses, and they're the most cynical. Bartimeus didn't care what anybody thought, he just said, 'Son of David, have mercy on me.' When they told him to be quiet, did he be quiet? No, the Bible said, he turned the volume up. When someone tells you to hold your peace, and not to witness, maybe you need to turn the volume up.

Did Jesus hear Bartimeus the first time he called? He didn't answer him the first time, did he? Is there something to be said for persistence? One of the secrets to having victory as a Christian is, not to give up. When Bartimeus said, 'Son of David, have mercy on me.' That's a prayer. The crowd said, 'Be quiet.' You know the devil speaks through the crowd sometimes, doesn't he? Did he listen, or did he keep on praying, and turn it up? When you're praying, does the devil tell you to be quiet? He says, Ah, be quiet, don't make a fuss, now is not a good time. You're making a spectacle.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and not glorify you, and glorify your father in heaven. Don't be ashamed to be a Christian! The Lord has told us to go forth conquering for Christ, and you know what, so often we're on the defensive. We've so afraid; we're constantly defending. Forget that! He's given you the truth! You ought to stand up for what you believe. You're to speak up; you're to let your light shine. They're who'll be ashamed in the end. You've got Christ on your side. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." Turn up the volume! Let people know what you believe. Have you said, "Son of David have mercy on me?" LOUDER.

So Jesus stood still. We know the story of Zaccheus and he knew He was coming and he wanted to see Jesus. Do you know what the name Zaccheus means? The word Zaccheus, of all things, it means pure. You know, the Bible said he wanted to see Jesus. You know, the Bible says, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' And he did see Jesus, didn't he?

Bartimeus heard Christ was coming up the street, he wanted to be ready when he got there, didn't he? So he kept calling out so

when Christ got to where he was, he could have an interview. Do you know that Christ is coming? Zaccheus climbed a tree to see Jesus, Bartimeus called out to see Jesus. You and I should be praying like we've never prayed before. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying, 'Be of good cheer, rise, He is calling you'. You know, the Lord has called you, too. Did Bartimeus come to Jesus on his own, or did someone have to bring him? He probably needed someone to lead him to Jesus.

You can be instrumental in bringing people to Jesus. Jesus could have walked over to Bartimeus, couldn't He? He didn't do that. He stood still, and said, 'You bring him to me.' Friends you know, one of greatest privileges a person can have is to bring a blind person to Christ, that they might see. You and I have that privilege, if we've got the Gospel. Jesus stands still. He said, you bring him to me. Be of good cheer. How does Zaccheus receive Jesus joyfully? How did Bartimeus come to Christ? Be of good cheer. He stopped everything, just for Him. Now, I don't want to rush past this. He said, 'Rise.' When the Word of God calls you, it

elevates you. He was squatting down by a wall there on the side of the road, wearing his rags, and Jesus stopped, and said, 'Come to me.' He said, 'Rise.' The Word of God elevates us. 'Be of good cheer. Come to me.'

The Bible says, the Word of the Lord came to Jonah and said, 'Arise.' God's word elevates us. Amen? 'Rise, He is calling you. And throwing aside his garment.' Do you think it's accidental that that's in there? He's beginning a journey to Jesus, and he throws aside his garment. What does a beggar wear? What does clothing represent in the Bible? I heard somebody say righteousness. Well, that depends on whose clothing it is. The Bible says in Isaiah 64, "All of our righteousness is like filthy rags". What do you think a beggar is wearing? And he throws aside his filthy rags, as he comes to Jesus.

And you know friends, that's the only way any of us come, just as we are, without one plea. Amen? We come to Jesus naked, and He clothes us. Bartimeus knew that he was poor, and wretched, and miserable, blind, and naked, and that's how he came to Christ. And when he came, knowing his condition, Jesus could work with

him. Another reason he threw aside his garment, is so he wouldn't trip on his way to Christ. You know the Bible tells us that our rags, our righteousness, our sins, must be laid aside. Let us lay aside the weight, and the sin that so easily beset us. It is hard to run a race when you are wearing a robe of rags. And he threw aside; I like that word threw; 'throwing aside', doesn't mean he took it off and dropped it. It implies disgust, with his rags. 'Threw it aside', and he came to Jesus. You know one reason; he can throw aside his rags?

How important is the garment of a beggar? That's your protection from the elements, it's your blanket at night, it's your rag, it's your everything. When he threw that aside, he came to Christ, in faith that Jesus was going to open his eyes, and that he would be able to support himself from then on, without begging. Christ in the Gospel, not only, forgives us, it enables us to be different kinds of people. One of the proofs that the Gospel comes to a person; the Gospel of Jesus Christ will pick up the beer cans in your yard, it'll help you comb your hair, and brush your teeth, and put your clothes on, and go to work. Amen? The Gospel makes responsible citizens

out of people. I think you ought to be able to tell a Christian from the way their house looks on the outside. Amen? Some of you are being quiet right now, because you are convicted! You should be able to tell a Christian from the way their garage looks. Now you're all convicted, right? You ought to be able to tell a Christian from how their pets act.

I've got some people, I go over to their house and their dogs are running around cowering with their tails between their legs. You know why they do that? Because they are not always nice, are they? You go to visit a Christian, and a big old dangerous looking animal comes up, and slobbers, and kisses you, and its tail is wagging, because it's owned by a Christian. Even our animals are sanctified. It's true, friends. The Bible says a righteous man regards the life of his beast. You see, everything about a Christian shines. "Throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'" Now wait a second. Did Jesus know what he wanted? How many of you believe, Jesus knew what he wanted? Why did Jesus ask him? Does God know what you want, before

you pray? But Jesus said, "Your heavenly Father, He knows the things you have need of, before you even ask". But He said, 'Ask'.

God is not telling us to ask so that He can come down to where we are. God is telling us to ask, because prayer will elevate us to where He is. You know when you ask, and then you get the answer, you know where the answer came from. And what's the most important prayer we can pray? For forgiveness of sin, and when you ask for forgiveness for your sins, you're admitting you are a sinner. Asking is very important.

Jesus said to Bartimeus, what is it you want? You need to ask me. Give God glory, so we'll know where the answer is coming from. And the blind man said to Him, 'Rabboni, that I might receive my sight.' Was he praying a little prayer or a big prayer? What kind of prayer should we be praying, friends? If you pray big prayers, you get big answers and what happens to your faith? It gets bigger, too. We pray these puny prayers. Pray for big things, friends. Believe in God! The Bible says, he said, 'That I might receive my sight.' He said, I'm not asking you to give me new rags.

You know, it's amazing, the things we pray for. We're imprisoned by the devil, and we say, Lord, please give me a carpet for my prison cell. Give me a better blanket for my prison bed. Could I have more reading material for my prison? And God is saying, Why don't you just pray to get out of prison? Some of us, in our prayers, we're asking for comfort in our lost condition. Do you know what I'm talking about? Some of us know that we're not right with Jesus, but our prayers are that God will make us comfortable in our sins. That's a scary thing, if He answers those prayers.

He said, 'I want to receive my sight.' I'm not asking for better rags. I'm not asking for an offering in my tin can. I want to receive my sight, so I don't have to be blind anymore; so I don't have this problem anymore. Now what does the vision represent in this story? Spiritual understanding. The Bible says to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well'. And immediately, he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the road. Go your way: your faith. What made him well? (Response - His faith) Ah-h-, we're running out of time, and I could talk about that for a long time. No, I'm not going to talk about for a long time, but I am going to talk

about it a little bit. I don't know if we understand and appreciate the importance of faith.

The Bible says, in Hebrews Chapter 11:6, "Without faith, it's impossible to please God, for he that comes to God, must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. We are saved by grace, through faith". The Bible tells us that, 'Faith is the essence of what saves us. The just shall live by faith; Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. The world right now is being told that if you have enough faith, you'll be healthy and wealthy. You'll never go through any trials. That's a lie. Now God has dealt to all men a measure of faith. And the world has discovered that.

The world is talking about positive thinking; the power of positive thinking. If you have enough faith, you won't get sick; if you have enough faith, everything is going to work out, if you have enough faith. But, you know what they're teaching? It's a very subtle dangerous detour that is being taught, even in Christian, especially Charismatic Churches. They're teaching; righteousness by faith, and faith, that we're saved by faith, and faith. We're not

saved by faith in faith. Bartimeus' eyes were not opened because he had faith, in faith; he had faith in Jesus; that Jesus could open his eyes. He said, 'Your faith in Me has made you well.' That's what's understood. Some people are thinking, if I could just believe, it'll all happen. Well, if you can believe 'in Christ, all things are possible.' Jesus said, 'If you've got faith, like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountains, be plucked up and be cast into the depths of the sea, and it will be done. God says, in the Bible, 'He'll take our sins and cast them into the depths of the sea'. And then I read where it said, 'He that has faith can say to this mountain, be plucked up and cast in to the sea.' And it finally dawned on my dense mind; God is not interested in our moving dirt with faith, that's why He gives us Bulldozers. The mountain that we need to move, is a mountain of sin, that's crushing us. If you have faith, that mountain of sin can be plucked up, and cast into the depths of the sea.

You know, I've got good news for you. The deepest part of the ocean, the Marianna Trench is deeper than the highest mountain, 28,000 feet, Mt Everest. Which means, you could take the

highest mountain in the world, and put it in the deepest ocean, and it will disappear. God can do that with mountains, and He can do that with your sin. That's where we need faith! So many of us are wishing we had more faith, so we'd never get sick, so we'd have enough money, so we'd solve all our problems. The main thing we need faith for is, that we might open our eyes. Amen? Now, I do believe that's an element of faith that should be applied to answering these other prayers; but that's not the primary thing. He said, 'Your faith has made you well.' Now, when did it happen? Immediately, his eyes were open.

Wouldn't you like to have seen the expression on his face? Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus. What was the very first thing that Bartimeus saw? He was brought face to face with Jesus. He had channeled his ears like stereo, toward the Master, so he could hear His voice. So when Jesus said, 'Your faith has made you whole.' His eyes opened up. First thing he focused on was the image of Christ. And then he looked up, and he saw the blue sky, and he saw the white clouds, and he saw all the things you, and I take for granted everyday. And his face was contorted with joy and tears,

unlike anything that you can even imagine. To have all that light, and information flooding into his mind, to understand for the first time, perhaps, what a dog looks like, and that's what a person looks like, and that's what this looks like, and that looks like, and have all that information, and understanding just completely pouring like a waterfall into your mind, all of a sudden.

To see that happen to a person, it must be a tremendous experience, just to watch it, let alone have it happen. I've seen it happen during Evangelistic Meetings, when people who have groped in darkness, hear the Gospel. You know what I can't understand friends, church members, you can't get them to Prayer Meeting, some of them. Sometimes in trying to get them to Evangelistic Meetings--they say, oh I understand, I know these things, and then you have folks who have been in darkness all their lives, they come, and they hear the Gospel for the first time; they're on the front row. They're there every night. We tell them we're going to have a special meeting this week, 2:30 in the morning; they're all there, sitting on the front row, grinning. They've been blind, and they're happy

now, they can see, and they want everyone else to bring in their friends. All the new people are just bubbling with that first love.

I wish that it would be epidemic, and that all the members would catch that joy of what it's like to have their eyes opened, and to see for the first time. You know when you find Jesus, and your eyes are open, you want to stay close to Jesus. The Bible says, "Jesus said to him, 'Go your way.'" You're free, you don't have to follow me." But what does it say? "He followed Jesus." I think you don't want to miss the scenario here. Jesus said, 'Have him brought to me.' Jesus said, 'Come to me.' He opened his eyes. He said, 'You're free now'. And the Bible says Jesus told him, 'Go', and then he followed Jesus. That friends, is exactly what happens to us.

Jesus says, 'Come unto me.', then he says, 'Go, tell all nations.' So we tell all nations as we follow Christ. Isn't that how it works? Because He said, 'I am with you always.' You come to Jesus and then you go for Jesus. Amen? And he followed Him in the road. This story is somewhere else in the Bible and it says, 'He followed Him rejoicing in the road.' He was jumping up, and

down, making a real spectacle out of himself. Now, **he didn't care what the crowd thought, because he had his eyes open.** He was going to tell everybody along the way.

I heard about a man in New York City, who had been blind for several years. He went to this doctor that was an expert, in this certain procedure. **The doctor performed the surgery and restored his sight, better than before he lost it. That man was so happy!** He **went to the doctor's office, and said could I have a few of your business cards?** The doctor said, **sure.** He took the doctor's business cards, and he started giving them away on the subway, on his way to work everyday. And he'd hand it to every person with glasses, or anyone with a cane, and he said, "I was blind, and this doctor opened my eyes. I was blind and this doctor opened my eyes. I was blind and this doctor opened my eyes." When he got down to one card, he took the card, and reprinted them.

It's a true story. Every day on the way to work, he'd go up from one end of the train to the other, on the subway, and he'd hand out this doctor's cards, because his eyes were open. He had to tell everybody. Would God, that you and I would appreciate that Jesus

has opened our eyes, and that we would feel a burning desire to tell everybody, 'This doctor opened my eyes, and He can do it for you.' **Would you like to have your eyes open? That has to happen first.** **If that's your desire, then would you stand with me right now?**