

First Light

As Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem (Mark 10:46-52) a blind man named Bartimaeus realized Jesus was passing by. In desperation, Bartimaeus called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Evidently, he had heard of Jesus and was determined to try his best to get Jesus' attention.

Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" and the response was, "Rabbi, I want to see." Bartimaeus's sight was healed by Jesus and he followed Jesus along the road.

I hope that when Jesus asks me that same question, "What do you want me to do for you?", I can respond much the same as Bartimaeus, "Lord, help me to see." I want to see an attitude of service in my life, I want to see my actions reflect the fair and impartial treatment of marginalized people, and I want to see mercy exhibited in all aspects of my life.

Bartimaeus may have been the only one in the crowd along the Jericho road that day who truly "saw" Jesus. He acknowledged Him as "Son of David" and "Rabbi". He knew Jesus could help him with his immediate physical need and he pursued Him relentlessly. His first sight must have been the very face of his Savior, what a first sight! The smile of Jesus would be a visual impression that Bartimaeus would never forget.

I pray we will follow the determination of Bartimaeus and relentlessly seek out Jesus. And when we "see" Jesus, even if it is for the first time, may our lives be changed forever as we follow Him.

-- Steve Brookman