



God Hears Our Cries!

January 15, 2017

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:46-52

Jesus our Lord went all the way up to Caesarea Philippi, which is now modern Syria border, and that is where He asked His disciples who do you say that I am? That is when Peter confessed that Jesus is indeed Christ, the Messiah! After that incident, they went near a high mountain, and Jesus transfigured there. Then they moved to Decapolis area. Now He was on His way to Jerusalem via Jericho. This incident happened right before the Passion Week. His sacrificial death was imminent. Jericho was the city where He touched Zacchaeus, and He stayed in His house. Now it was time for Him to move toward Jerusalem.

Mark 10:46.

46 Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.

The blind man's identity is very clear. His name was Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus. He was sitting outside the gates of Jericho where people would come in and go out. He was begging for his livelihood. What a tragedy it is to see people with serious disability being abandoned? It is the obligation of the neighborhood, city, country to take care of such people. Woe unto the nation that abandons the disabled, and the old. There were many individuals, and the Scripture says that there was a large crowd moving here and there. But the minute Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, and as soon as he heard His name, he started screaming for Jesus.

Mark 10:47, 48

47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

No one had to tell him who Jesus was. He must have heard numerous stories already about Jesus. Without seeing any of Christ's miracle, he believed in His heart that Jesus is indeed the Son of David, the Messiah. He believed in his heart that only Jesus could deliver him and here was his only opportunity. He had to stop Jesus somehow. He had to get the healing. This was the moment he had been waiting for. He knew that if he could only get the attention of Jesus, He will hear his cry and He may heal him.

He started yelling frantically; Jesus have mercy on me! There was tranquility and serenity in the atmosphere where Jesus was! Where the Lord is, there is always glory, peace, and tranquility. But this blind man ruined all that in a moment. Just imagine, right now if somebody barges into this church and starts shouting for the Lord how will you feel? We may



God Hears Our Cries!

January 15, 2017

say, please keep quiet! Let me focus on Jesus! The crowd tried to hush Him. But the blind man changed his gear from 1st to the 4th gear straight. He started shouting very loud. When I was studying in Madras Christian College, we used to call people with a loud voice as “gun throats”. When they talk, the whole dorm could hear their conversation.

Many were irritated. The crowd showed that openly. They sternly warned him to be quiet. But the blind man became frantic. This was once in a lifetime opportunity, and that too seemed to be slipping away right in front of him. Never let such moments slip away. When you feel the presence of the Lord, you cherish those moments and call upon Him, and come closer to Him. Talk to Him! Let us draw unto Christ that He may draw unto us. Bartimaeus went on overdrive now! He screamed even louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" This was a life and death situation for him...a desperate call. He had to do what he had to do to get Jesus' attention. This blind man indeed stepped out of his boundary. He now disrespected all the elders and the majority of the crowd by not listening to them, and became rowdy and disobedient. The tranquil scene became a disruptive commotion. The crowd stood baffled, not knowing what to do!

(Just a side note for our young budding singers. The psalmist says, Shout to the Lord, all ye people! We must not just sing, but sing loudly. You are singing and shouting for Jesus' blessing. Don't just try to move your lips or move your throat muscles. Move your heart muscles, and stomach muscles also. If you sing from your heart, it will come out powerful).

Jesus heard his cry and anguish. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard it!

John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. (John 6:37 NASB)

This is a great promise for all of us.

Never doubt that He does not hear you,

Never doubt that He will not respond.

No matter who comes running to Him, Jesus will never cast that person out. Can we be like Jesus? We tend to allow people to come near only if we like them. Otherwise, we push them out. We tend to screen people before they come near us. Let us not be like that anymore.

Only by faith can we come to Christ and faith is a gift of God. Pray for more faith so that we may shout for Him and come close to Him. Jesus says, only the Father gives, come to Him. It is the Spirit of the Father that gives us enough faith and courage to move us toward Jesus.



God Hears Our Cries!

January 15, 2017

Mark 10:49,50

49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."

50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

Now the whole parade stopped because of one poor blind guy. Jesus told them to bring him to Him. Some people may have come to Bartimaeus and said, "Alright, alright, calm down, brother! Jesus wants you now." As soon as Bartimaeus heard Jesus' name, he threw his cloak aside, jumped up, and he was lead to Jesus.

His faith was so strong EVEN before Jesus could heal him, he knew deep in his heart that he would be healed. I call this a "sure faith". When we love Jesus dearly and believe in Him completely that He can do anything for us, we can have the perfect assurance that everything is going to be JUST alright. All things work out for good for those who love God, and who puts their trust in Him. They will never be ashamed or let down. Do you believe in Him? Then why is your soul cast down? Arise, shine, Christ will resurrect you!

Jesus is calling you right now! What kind of response is yours? Jesus is calling us every morning when we get up from bed.

Can we run to Him and embrace Him, and read and meditate on His Word?

Can we jump up and run to the Bible Study/Prayer meeting?

Can we jump up and come running to the Sunday service.

He is calling you to come and worship together.

When your faith is strong, you will jump up and come. Faith is completely trusting someone. If you trust someone totally, you will love that person. Won't you? You will be eager to come running toward that person because you believe in that person. When we don't trust a person, we drag our leg and go to that person. Sometimes our marriage is not in great shape because we have lost faith and hope in that person. When we lose faith and hope, our love becomes very cold also. There is a strong connection between faith, hope, and love. Stop judging the other person but believe in that person and love that person. Bartimaeus loved Jesus and believed in Him. His salvation was very near.

Mark 10: 51

And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!"



God Hears Our Cries!

January 15, 2017

Have you noticed Jesus always asks this question, "What do you want me to do for you"? even though He knows exactly what they were going to ask! Jesus could easily tell him, see, I have so many gifts in my hand. I can give you wisdom, righteousness, peace, joy, prosperity, protection, and safety, I can give you power, wealth, I can make you famous, what do you want me to do?

But He never says that. He wants us to be specific in our request. He has it all. But we do not receive because we ask not. But remember to ask everything according to His will and purpose.

The blind man was much focused. He managed to come close to the only person who could heal him, and that person is asking him, what do you want me to do? The blind man replied, "I want to regain my sight!" (pause) "I want to regain my sight" The blind man cried out, he was lead to Jesus Christ our Lord, and he got the opportunity to submit his request face to face!

Mark 10:52

52 And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

Jesus said, Go, your faith has made you well. This can be easily misconstrued by those who promote positive thinking. Bartimaeus was not healed because of his positive thinking, but because of his unwavering faith in Jesus. Faith must have some object. But for positive thinkers faith does not have any object to trust in. There is a huge difference between psyching yourself to believing than believing and trusting in a person's ability to do something for us. Do you see the difference? Sometimes we take passages like this and run with the positive thinking theology. Our faith and trust in Christ draw us to Christ, but eventually, He is the one who heals us. Anyone who places his trust in Him will never be put to shame.

Something extraordinary happens here! Not only does his physical eyes open, but also his spiritual eyes. Now he started following Jesus Christ! Many come to church or evangelical meeting to get healed. But once they get healed, they go their own merry way. But true believers do not do that. They come to Christ with an unshakeable faith, and after their encounter, they are strengthened even further, and they follow Him all the way. We must come to Christ, follow Him, and become devoted disciples doing His will. Miracles are just a start in our lives. After that we must follow someone who is greater than this life itself, the very author of miracle of life, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Whenever we come to Christ with unshakeable faith, there is victory! If we have Christ, we have it all. This story ended on a joyful note almost instantaneously. The whole incident may



God Hears Our Cries!

January 15, 2017

have happened within 2 or 3 minutes. But it doesn't always happen that way in our lives. Sometimes many years of shouting, and weeping may not bring any result at all. Is God not hearing us or are we not really shouting out in faith? Or is God hearing our cries but is not granting our wish?

The following story is for such people who are perplexed about their situation. They are demonstrating strong faith in the Lord but yet there is no favorable response from the Lord. This story is also about blind people. Let me touch upon it briefly and conclude.

The Two blind men story:

Mathew 9:27-30

27As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." 29Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

30And their eyes were opened.

The context: Jesus came to Ruler of Synagogue's house and resurrected his daughter from death. After that He was returning to His house. The two blind men shouted but yet Jesus did not stop for them this time. He kept going. The blind men followed and kept on shouting, yet He did not stop for them. But when He entered His house, the blind men went into the house also, (of course, without any invitation), and encountered Christ, and they were healed. Sometimes we may not be healed even at the point of death, but eventually we get healed when we reach His home, heaven! So we must learn to accept that side of will of God also.

Learn to keep shouting until we have our last breath! Be persistent!

Never give up. Until we breathe our last breath we must press on! Keep seeking, keep asking, and keep knocking! Never, never give up, especially when we face serious health issues. Our Lord can heal us. Even if He does not heal us in this life, He will heal us completely in His heavenly home. Through all these sufferings one thing is certain: Jesus is standing so close to us. He hears us shouting, and He calls us near to Him so he can talk to us. He will heal us when He wants us to experience that healing. Keep following Him. We have an extraordinary privilege which is more precious than our healing. We are with Him, talking to Him, and following Him! What a great privilege! If we have Jesus along our side, we have nothing to worry. His presence is more than sufficient for us, He is an unfailing God, and He will heal us! For some it may not be healing, you may be looking for something else – stability in your job, relationships, whatever else. Just remember He is with you.



God Hears Our Cries!

January 15, 2017

Mark 11:24.

24“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

*** If you believe with certainty that your God will answer your prayers, you will receive! That is the success of our prayer group. Praise be to God. Everyone in that group believes that God will certainly answer, and He has always been faithful in answering our prayers!

Believe with certainty that God is able, He will hear our prayers, and He will answer!

Pastor Daniel Israel