

# Small Group Sermon Response

**Date:** March 17, 2024

**Text:** Mark 10:46-52

**Sermon Title:** "On the Road"

**Preacher:** Pastor Caleb Widmer

## Recap of Previous Message:

In last week's sermon, Pastor David Hahn highlighted Jesus' practices of solitude and prayer as depicted in Mark 1:35-39. He emphasized the essential balance between personal spiritual disciplines and active ministry.

## Introduction:

The story of Bartimaeus, whose name means "son of Timaeus" in Aramaic, is not just a tale of physical healing but also one that profoundly illustrates the transformative power of faith. This encounter, rich in spiritual and theological significance, showcases Bartimaeus's deep recognition of Jesus as the Messiah and invites us to delve into the various dimensions of this encounter, including the setting, the conflict, and the ultimate resolution.

## Setting (Mark 10:46):

- **Location:** In the vibrant city of Jericho, a crucial crossroad for Passover travelers, about 15 miles from Jerusalem.
- **Atmosphere:** A place buzzing with cultural and spiritual energy, providing a backdrop for the significant meeting between Jesus and Bartimaeus.

## Discussion Questions:

1. **Jesus' Teaching on 'Son of David' (Mark 12:35-37):** In this passage, Jesus challenges the common understanding of the Messiah as merely David's son. Discuss how Jesus' teaching in the temple, where He refers to Himself in relation to the title "Son of David," deepens our understanding of His messianic identity. What implications does this have for how we comprehend Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies?
2. **Bartimaeus' Recognition of Jesus (Mark 10:47-48):** Discuss the significance of Bartimaeus addressing Jesus as the "Son of David." How does this title, especially in Bartimaeus's situation, reflect his understanding of Jesus' identity compared to the prevailing public perception?
3. **Jesus' Question to Bartimaeus (Mark 10:51):** Analyze the importance of Jesus asking Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" What does this question reveal about Jesus' approach to individual needs and the nature of His miracles?
4. **The Term "Rabboni" (Mark 10:51):** Bartimaeus calls Jesus "Rabboni" (רַבּוֹנִי), which means "My Master/Lord" or "My Teacher." Explore the depth of this term in acknowledging Jesus' authority

(contrast with "Good Teacher" in **Mark 10:17**). How does it contrast with the general public's view of Jesus during that period?

## Application Questions:

1. **How can we more actively seek to 'see' Jesus** in our daily experiences, especially in times of need or challenge? Consider how deepening our understanding of His journey, from His teachings to His sacrifice and resurrection, can transform our perspective and actions.
2. **How can we follow Jesus' example of service**, particularly in stopping for and attending to those who are often overlooked or marginalized? Reflect on ways we can embody Jesus' compassion and care in our interactions with others, particularly those in need.
3. **In what areas of your life are you seeking Jesus'** saving grace and healing? Reflect on how demonstrating faith like Bartimaeus, in both small and significant ways, can lead to transformation and renewal in your own life journey.
4. **If Jesus were to ask you**, "What do you want me to do for you?" how would you answer, considering your deepest needs, hopes, and concerns? Discuss the importance of being honest and vulnerable in bringing these aspects of your life to Jesus for His transformative touch.

## Going Deeper: The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-22)

- **The Challenge of Choice:** Reflect on the rich young ruler's struggle to accept Jesus' invitation. What does this tell us about the challenges of genuinely committing to Jesus?
- **Divine Compassion and Human Freedom:** Jesus' compassionate offer juxtaposed with the ruler's ultimate rejection highlights the reality of human freedom in the context of divine love.
- **The Risk of Rejection:** This story illustrates the risk inherent in God's gift of free will - the freedom to accept or reject His call.
- **The Authenticity of Faith and Choice:** Contrast Bartimaeus's willing and faith-filled response to Jesus with the rich young ruler's hesitation, exploring what these responses reveal about the nature of faith and discipleship.

## Conclusion:

The narrative of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52 serves as a powerful reminder of the impact of faith and recognition of Jesus as the Messiah. It invites us to examine our own responses to Jesus' presence in our lives and encourages us to follow Him with a renewed commitment to faith and discipleship. *Choices have consequences.*

See kid choose between cookies or cash: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/Z01mM9g6BAs>