

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PRESSING IN TOWARD GOD

RLJ-1255

CHARLES THORELL

SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

HEROES OF THE FAITH

There are people in the Bible who are often thought of as “heroes of the faith” because they accomplished something great through adversity. They lived in the present and struggled with the same emotions and challenges like us but we have the advantage of reading the Bible, seeing how they handled it, and already knowing the outcome.



If you were faced with a life altering dilemma, how badly would you be willing to pursue the solution?

PAIN IS A MOTIVATOR

Bartimaeus was a blind man who couldn't do much for a living and begged for money. **Mark 10:46**

He must have heard that Jesus healed the blind, lame and the lepers. When he heard the crowd of people walking past his position and found out that Jesus was passing by, he became excited and shouted at the top of his lungs. The people around him told him to be quiet but this was the chance of lifetime and he cried out even louder. **verses 47-48**



It is important to note that Bartimaeus did not call Him Jesus of Nazareth, but Jesus, the son of David, a title of the Messiah. He was miserable in his blindness and a perfect object of mercy for Jesus to act upon.

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing...” (Isaiah 35:5-6a)

Jesus stopped and called for Bartimaeus to come forward. Then the people who previously had rebuked him urged him to go forward. **verse 49**

Bartimaeus was in such a hurry to meet Jesus that he sprang up, flung aside his outer coat and left it on the ground while they led him to the Lord. **verse 50**

When asked what he wanted, Bartimaeus indicated that he wanted to receive his sight more than anything in the world. **verse 51**

Jesus could have just healed him but He commended Bartimaeus' strong faith. Final proof of the healing is shown that he “followed Jesus by the way.” **verse 52**

“By this he made it appear that he was thoroughly cured, that he no more needed one to lead him, but could go himself; and by this he evidenced the grateful sense he had of Christ's kindness to him, that, when he had his sight, he made this use of it. It is not enough to come to Christ for spiritual healing,



8341 Fair Oaks Blvd, Suite B, Carmichael, CA 95608

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166 Sheridan, CA 95681

Phone: (916) 944-3724 • Toll Free: (888) 708-3232 • Fax: (530) 633-2918 • www.eaac.org

but, when we are healed, we must continue to follow him; that we may do honour to him, and receive instruction from him. Those that have spiritual eyesight, see that beauty in Christ, that will effectually draw them to run after him.” Matthew Henry



What would be your reaction if you experienced a life changing miracle? How would you show your thankfulness? Would you simply use Jesus as an ATM machine, get what you need, and then walk away?

JESUS CAME FOR THE HURTING

Bartimaeus couldn't help that he was born blind but that didn't stop him from trying to change his blindness into sight as he pressed in toward God.

God the Father sent His Son to heal the blind. **Luke 4:17-19**

Isaiah 61:1-3

- 1) *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*
- 2) *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*
- 3) *To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

John 10:10

- 10) *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*



Jesus Christ is always the same! (**Hebrews 13:8**) He is not a respecter of persons, and He will do for you what He did for Bartimaeus. If you are seeking something from the Lord, how badly do you want it?

Hebrews 4:14-16

- 14) *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*
- 15) *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*
- 16) **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**