



**Blind  
Bartimaeus**

## Colour me!



### Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples went to Jericho. And as they were leaving, they were followed by a large crowd. A blind beggar called Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting beside the road. When he heard that it was Jesus from Nazareth, he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Many people told the man to stop, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him over!"

They called out to the blind man and said, "Don't be afraid! Come on! He is calling for you." The man threw off his coat as he jumped up and ran to Jesus. Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man answered, "Master, I want to see!" Jesus told him, "You may go. Your eyes are healed because of your faith." Straight away the man could see, and he went down the road with Jesus.



## Commentary

As usual, Jesus is surrounded by crowds of people. This time he is on his way from Jericho to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. His attention is increasingly on the coming events of the Holy Week and Easter, yet he still finds time to bother about one person in the crowd – a person no one else is interested in.

Bartimaeus (this is his surname, not his first name, because, sadly, in those days sick or disabled people were treated with little respect) was a regular beggar on this route. The crowds were probably used to ignoring him or telling him to shut up, and they do so all the more when he starts calling out for Jesus. He is an embarrassment to everyone, and he is holding up the journey to Jerusalem. But Jesus hears and sees this nobody and treats him with respect. Bartimaeus knows who Jesus is and even gives him his proper royal title of 'Son of David', showing more understanding and faith in Jesus than the crowds around him. His faith is rewarded: his sight is restored, and now he sees Jesus for himself. As he looks at Jesus, he is looking into the face of God, who wants everyone to see properly with new eyes the wonders of this world and all the people he has created.

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## Questions

- ▶ How do you think Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was there?
- ▶ Why did the crowds want to silence Bartimaeus?
- ▶ Bartimaeus was a determined man. How determined are we to get close to Jesus in prayer?
- ▶ Why do you think Jesus picked out Bartimaeus' cries above all the noise of the crowd?
- ▶ Do you think Bartimaeus was among those who stayed with Jesus through the events that happened in Jerusalem in the days to come?



## Visual aid

Cover a walking stick or a branch with white tape. Those who have difficulty with their eyesight often walk with a stick like this.



## Activity idea

Bartimaeus must have had some friends who helped him down to the Jericho–Jerusalem road each day to sit and beg. Play a trust game in which one of you is blindfolded and has to let the others guide him or her around a simple obstacle course. People who lose their sight have to learn how to compensate by using the other senses better, such as touch and hearing.



## Prayer idea

In some parts of the world, Christians pray out loud all at the same time. This reminds us that, when we pray, we are not talking to impress each other but to connect with God. Bartimaeus' prayer was shouted out loud above the noise of the crowd. Why not try this type of prayer as a family today? On the count of three, everyone should pray their prayer out loud at the same time.

## Key verse

Jesus told him, "... Your eyes are healed because of your faith" (Mark 10:52).

## Old Testament story link

Isaiah 35:3-10: Isaiah looks forward to the day when God will change everything.



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