

Mark Part 22 - “Take Heart” (9-21-25)

Main Text: Mark 10:46-52 (parallels: Matthew 20:29-34, Luke 18:35-43)

Mark 10:46-52 (ESV)

[46] And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. [47] And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” [48] And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” [49] And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” [50] And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. [51] And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” [52] And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Context: Pit stop in Jericho before continuing to Jerusalem . . .

1) Who is Jesus?

Mark 10:46-47 (ESV)

[46] And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. [47] And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Note: When he “heard” that is was Jesus (of Nazareth), he cried out to Him . . .

Bartimaeus uses 2 titles when addressing Jesus: Son of David and Rabbi

“Son of David” (vs. 47, 48): This is a phrase with Prophetic meaning - the long awaited Messiah

“Rabbi” or Lord (vs. 51): Rabboni (My Great Master) used only by Bartimaeus (here) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:16), when Jesus revealed himself to her after his resurrection, simply by speaking her name - “Mary”

Bartimaeus is properly identifying Jesus! He believes in who Jesus is, BEFORE he is healed!

2) What does Jesus do?

From Mark 10:49, 51, and 52 (ESV)

(49) And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” . . . (51) And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” . . . (52) And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Note: Jesus stops, calls him, asks what he needs, listens, and restores him!

Your Faith has made you “Well” often translated “saved” (Sozo) . . .

Sozo meaning: To save, deliver, make whole, preserve safe from danger, loss, destruction, to save one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health

Sozo use: 54 times in the gospels . . .

- 14x - deliverance from disease or demon possession
- 20x - rescue of physical life from impending peril or death
- 20x - spiritual salvation

What does Jesus do? Jesus saves. He delivers and heals us. He brings us into wholeness!

3) Take Heart

There is a lot of noise in this short story . . . (consider from the perspective of someone who can't see!)

- **Bartimaeus is “crying out”**
- **The Crowd is “silencing” him** (Notice how often the crowd around Jesus, and even the 12, do this)
- **Then, Bartimaeus cries out all the more! (louder, more rapidly) . . .**

Mark 10:49 (ESV)

And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”

Note: The people nearby now use the phrase “**Take Heart**” he is calling you . . .

Take heart - be of good courage, be of good cheer; to be confident, hopeful (it’s a form of encouragement)

This is a phrase Jesus used . . .

Matthew 9:2 (ESV)

And behold, some people brought to him a瘫痪者, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the瘫痪者, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

Matthew 9:20-22 (ESV)

[20] And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, [21] for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” [22] Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

Mark 6:49-50 (ESV)

[49] but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, [50] for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

Note: They have been hearing Jesus use this phrase, and now they see Jesus calling this blind man, and they encourage him to take heart, and come to Jesus!

Consider: Are we obstacles for people to get to Jesus? Are we silencing desperate hearts? Are we communicating to them that Jesus does see, hear, or care about them? Or are we encouraging people to take heart, and inviting them to meet Jesus?

Jesus used this phrase 1 more time after this with his disciples . . .

John 16:33 (ESV)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Note: People need to take heart in this world full of trouble, and Jesus can uniquely bring us peace because He has overcome the world.

Conclusion: Bartimaeus goes from “Sitting” by the roadside to “Following” Jesus on “the way.” Let’s take heart, seeing Jesus for who he is, and trusting in Him for our “Sozo”. May our voices and our lives encourage others to “Take Heart” along the way.