

Bartimaeus: Living with Reckless Abandon

Mark 10:45–52

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Mark 10:45–52, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging.⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, *"Call him."* So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ *"What do you want me to do for you?"* Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."⁵² *"Go,"* said Jesus, *"your faith has healed you."* Immediately, he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Quotes on Desperation

- "Desperation can make you do things you never imagined you could do."
–Kakra Baiden
- "People need motivation to do anything. I don't think human beings learn anything without desperation."
–Jim Carrey
- "Desperation is the raw material of drastic change. Only those who can leave behind everything they have ever believed in can hope to escape."
–William S. Burroughs
- "In life, you need either inspiration or desperation."
–Tony Robbins
- "There's nothing like desperation to sharpen your sense of focus."
–Thomas Newman
- "There are three things that make a person a writer: inspiration, perspiration, and desperation."
–Harlan Coben
- "I've heard people say that God is the gift of desperation, and there's a lot to be said for having really reached a bottom where you've run out of any more good ideas or plans for everybody else's behavior; or how to save and fix and rescue; or just get out of a huge mess, possibly of your own creation."
–Anne Lamott

Jericho – Sweet Fragrance

Bartimaeus – Son of Timaeus; foul, unclean, impure

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1. Deep Awareness of His Need for Grace

Mark 10:45, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

2. Unusual Sensitivity to the Spirit

Mark 10:47, *When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

3. Cried Out in Desperation

Mark 10:47b, *...he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

4. Fought Bravely Against Opposition

Mark 10:48, *Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

5. Lived With Total Abandonment

Mark 10:50, *Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.*

6. Gladly Followed Jesus

Mark 10:52 (KJV), *And Jesus said unto him, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole."* And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

In case you missed it...

Answers:

1. Awareness
2. Spirit
3. Desperation
4. Opposition
5. Total
6. Followed