

Use Week of: July 30

Parent BIBLE STUDY- Personal Preparation

The prophet Isaiah wrote about the Messiah's mission. It would include opening the eyes of the blind. (See Isa. 35:5; 42:7.) The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record an account of Jesus' physically healing people who were blind. In Matthew 20, Matthew mentions two unnamed blind men, while the accounts in Mark 10 and Luke 18 focus on only one of them. Mark provided more detail, identifying the blind man as Bartimaeus (bahr tih MEE uhs).

As Jesus traveled from Jericho, He passed Bartimaeus, who spent his days begging on the side of the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, he cried out to Him, using a messianic title: "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Socially, Bartimaeus would have been considered unimportant—certainly not important enough for the attention of someone as popular as Jesus. Perhaps Bartimaeus was used to being ignored by passersby, but Jesus stopped and reached out to him.

Jesus said to Bartimaeus, "What do you want Me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51). Jesus had just asked the same question of two of His disciples, James and John. (See Mark 10:36.) Their response, asking for their own glory, revealed their own spiritual blindness. Jesus told them that they didn't know what they were asking. They didn't truly understand Jesus' mission, which included suffering and service.

Bartimaeus, on the other hand, answered Jesus' question with a plea of faith: "Teacher, I want to see!" Bartimaeus believed that Jesus could heal him, and Jesus did. Bartimaeus had nothing to offer Jesus. He knew he was needy, and he begged for mercy. Jesus is willing to help those in need.

Though we may not be physically blind, all sinners are born spiritually blind. In our need, we can cry out like Bartimaeus, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus can open our eyes to the truth about God and save us.