

# Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

Healing of Blind Bartimaeus .....	1
Scene Summary .....	1
Scripture .....	1
Players .....	2
Special Props .....	2
Script – Healing Of Blind Bartimaeus .....	3
Supplemental Information.....	5
Extra Time.....	5

## **Scene Summary**

The exciting story of the “Healing of Blind Bartimaeus” presents a person at the very depths of life...a poor, blind beggar...listening to the crowd going by...learning that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby...raising his voice and crying for mercy...annoyed people telling him to be quiet...then in a moment his life was changed...transformed by the Master’s touch...Bartimaeus receives his sight and follows Jesus.

## **Scripture**

(Mat 20:29-34 NIV) As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. {30} Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" {31} The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" {32} Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. {33} "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." {34} Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

(Mark 10:46-52 NIV) Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the 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.

(Luke 18:35-43 NIV) As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. {36} When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. {37} They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." {38} He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on

me!" {39} Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" {40} Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, {41} "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. {42} Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." {43} Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

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### ***Players***

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Bartimaeus** – The blind person by the side of the road.
- **Person 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6** – Speaking parts associated with the crowd.
- **Crowd** – Non-speaking parts, as many as want to travel on the road to Jerusalem.
- **Jesus** – God's One and Only Son.

### ***Special Props***

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- Old, tattered clothes for Bartimaeus

## ***Script – Healing Of Blind Bartimaeus***

[Opening scene, people walking across stage, some in a hurry, some taking their time. Bartimaeus is by the side of the road]

**Narrator:** Many people were traveling along the road to Jerusalem. They are headed to the great Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover feast.

**Bartimaeus:** [holding out a their hand] Alms for the poor! Alms for the poor!

**Person 1:** [giving a coin] Here's a coin.

**Bartimaeus:** Oh, thank you! God bless you! [pause] Alms for the poor!

**Person 2:** [speaking to Person 3] I think Jesus of Nazareth is coming up the road behind us.

**Person 3:** No wonder there is such a big crowd back there.

**Bartimaeus:** [to himself] Jesus is coming this way? [then asking to anyone] Is Jesus of Nazareth coming this way?

**Person 4:** Yes, He is in the middle of the crowd behind us.

**Bartimaeus:** [normal voice] Jesus! Son of David, have mercy on me! [louder] Jesus! Son of David, have mercy on me!

**Person 5:** [politely] Calm down. Be quiet!

**Bartimaeus:** [moving around, but still on the ground] Jesus! Son of David, have mercy on me! [louder] Jesus! Son of David, have mercy on me!

**Person 6:** [politely] Move out of the way!

**Narrator:** Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more.

**Bartimaeus:** Son of David, have mercy on me!

**Narrator:** Suddenly the crowd came to stop.

**Jesus:** [stopping in the road and looking towards Bartimaeus] Call him.

**Person 5:** [going over to Bartimaeus] Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.

[Bartimaeus jumps to his feet and throws off his coat. He is quickly brought before Jesus]

**Jesus:** What do you want me to do for you?

**Bartimaeus:** Rabbi, I want to see!

**Jesus:** Go, your faith has healed you.

**Bartimaeus:** [awestruck with excitement] I can see! I can see! Praise God! Praise God!

**Narrator:** All of the people praised God, and Bartimaeus followed Jesus.

The End

## ***Supplemental Information***

Bartimaeus was blind. Many believe that sickness and infirmity were considered a curse from God, as punishment for sin. Jesus illustrated by word and deed that this theology regarding human sickness was completely wrong. God reveals Himself perfectly in Jesus Christ, our healer.

(Isa 42:6-7 NIV) "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, {7} to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."

(Isa 53:3-6 NIV) He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. {4} Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. {5} But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. {6} We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Bartimaeus was a poor beggar, at the mercy of others for the very basics of life. Jesus was on His last journey to Jerusalem. Listen to excitement in the words of the scripture as Bartimaeus "leaping" to his feet and "throwing" his outer garment aside, "rushing" to Jesus. What an amazing demonstration of his faith, determination and his eagerness to be healed.

Consider the words Bartimaeus uses to address Jesus, "Son of David." Bartimaeus was looking for the Messiah. The prophets said that the Messiah was to be a Son of David. The people in these times were under the oppressive rule of the Romans. Some, like Bartimaeus, were eagerly expecting the Messiah.

## ***Extra Time***

Since this play is short it could easily be repeated with different people in the leading roles. Most people take the ability of sight completely for granted. Try this play with the person playing Bartimaeus blindfolded. After the play, discuss what it was like not being able to see.

Impress on your students the need to protect their eyesight as something more precious than gold. Remind them to stay away while someone is doing yard or working with power tools.