

# Stowmarket Baptist Church

## THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

28 MAY 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

**Hello,** I hope you all have enjoyed a lovely week and have had fun. Have you been out for a picnic or a trip to the beach? I am hoping to have a BBQ in my garden this week.

This week should be the half term holiday, but as we are all staying at home, I'm writing you another Bible story.

I hope you enjoy reading this week's story.

Love Liz

We have been looking at some of the miracles that Jesus did when He was here on earth. Remember, Jesus could do these wonderful deeds because He is the Son of God.

Today's miracle can be found in the Bible in Mark chapter 10 verses 46-52...

<sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'

<sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.'

So they called to the blind man, 'Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.' <sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> 'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, 'Rabbi, I want to see.'

<sup>52</sup> 'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Today's miracle is about a man called Bartimaeus (you say his name...Bar-tea-may-us!) Bartimaeus lived in Jericho and everyday he sat on the pavement near the entrance to the town. He never did any work, but he wasn't lazy. He asked people to give him money and they did! and I think they would bring him food, too, sometimes.

It was really sad but Bartimaeus was blind. That meant he could see...nothing. Everything was **black** even when the sun was shining.

How horrible would that be!

What would you miss seeing if you were blind?

I like to see:



Can you sit very still with your eyes closed for a little while? How did you feel? It's not very pleasant is it?

Everyday this is what Bartimaeus had to do. Perhaps someone helped him to go safely to and from his home. I hope he had some friends.

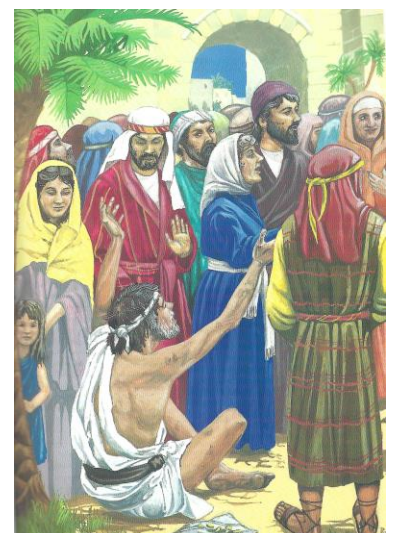
One special day there were a lot of people walking through the town, they had come into Jericho through another entrance and were making their way past Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus could hear the crowd whispering, "That's Jesus coming along." "Can you see Jesus with his disciples?"

Everyone was very excited. They were too excited to tell Bartimaeus, but he heard their whisperings anyway.

Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus and started to shout out "Jesus, have mercy on me." Mercy means, please be kind to me.

Bartimaeus opened his mouth to call again, but all the people round him said "Sssh, be quiet." They thought Jesus wouldn't be bothered about a poor blind man. Never listen if people try to stop you talking to Jesus, because Jesus loves to hear us talking to Him.



Bartimaeus knew that Jesus did care and only He could help him. So, Bartimaeus called and called again, even more loudly.

Jesus had already heard Bartimaeus and had stopped. Never forget that Jesus always hears us when we call to him.

Jesus called Bartimaeus to Him, which reminds us again that Jesus knew all about Bartimaeus and all his needs. Jesus knows all about each of us and our needs, too!

Jesus then asked a very important question:

## What do you want me to do for you?

Today, we might say, "What do you want?"

What would you answer?



Bartimaeus had called for help, Jesus had stopped but what would Bartimaeus ask for?

## Please Teacher, may I see?

Bartimaeus wanted to see and the Bible tells us that he could see immediately. His sight wasn't blurry or misty but perfectly clear!

How amazing is that! The first person Bartimaeus saw was Jesus!! and the Bible says he was so thankful that he followed Jesus and praised Him.

We all need Jesus to change us, just like He helped Bartimaeus to see. Whilst many of us can see well, we all need Jesus to take away the sin in our lives, because sin stops us from seeing Jesus.

I hope if you know someone who is blind, you will help them.

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

*Thank you for giving me my sight and enabling me to see many beautiful things that you have made.*

*Please help me to remember that I need you to forgive my sin, which stops me seeing and loving you.*

*Thank you for all your love to us. Amen.*