

Throw Down Your Cloak

RESPONDING TO JESUS

John 5: 5-9

Pool of Bethesda

*A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus *said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk.*

The lame man at the pool:

- He focused on his past
- He had a victim mentality
- He showed a passive approach to life

Bartimaeus, the Blind Beggar: Mark 10: 46-52

*Then they *came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And*

*Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they *called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.*

ENCOUNTERING GOD

*A blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. **Mark 10:46***

Bartimaeus was doing what he did every single day.

Take Away #1: You can't predict when you will encounter God in miraculous ways.

BLIND PHYSICALLY BUT NOT SPIRITUALLY

*When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" **Mark 10:47***

Take Away #2: Recognize and acknowledge who Jesus is regardless of the "climate" of your life..

He has whatever you need today.

He is Redeemer, Shepherd, Lover of your soul, Bread of Life, Gateway to Heaven. He is Life, Truth, the Way.

TAKING ACTION

When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" **Mark 10:47**

Take Away #3 Be proactive.

Is Jesus walking by something in your life?

Is there something He has put His finger on that requires your response/action?

Run after the things of God and that which He asks of you.

DETERMINATION

Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" **Mark 10:48**

Take Away #4 Don't let others/other voices deter you from bringing Jesus to bear on your life.

How determined are you to reach for what God has for you?

TAKING A RISK

*And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they *called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.*

Mark 10: 49–50

The fact that Bartimaeus threw his cloak aside is more than symbolic. It was a prophetic act that said, ***"I am willing to risk the old way of doing things in order to reach for whatever Jesus has for me."***

Take Away #5 Take the risk to throw aside your old way of doing things when Jesus calls to you.

This is the opposite of victim mentality.

Isaiah 43:18–19

“Do not call to mind the former things,

Or ponder things of the past.

“Behold, I will do something new,

Now it will spring forth;

Will you not be aware of it?

I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,

Rivers in the desert.

LIFE CHANGING FAITH

And answering him, Jesus said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

And the blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!”

Mark 10: 51

He made the big ask.

He asked for the miracle because he had the faith to know Jesus could do it.

He looks to the **future** believing that Jesus would change his life.

Take Away #6 When Jesus asks “What do you want from me?” Believe and ask for the miraculous.

How often to we sell Jesus short and ask for what we can see?

Do you ask for the miracle or just to make things more comfortable?

FOLLOW JESUS

*And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road. **Mark 10:52***

Faith fueled Bartimaeus' action, his determination, his risk taking, and his hope for healing.

Take Away #7 Keep moving forward with Jesus after you receive your miracle.

We need to be **a living testimony to all of the miracles God has wrought in our lives.**

JESUS ASKS THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

"Do you wish to get well?"

"What do you want Me to do for you?"

Take Away #8 Jesus knows you and meets you where you are.

JESUS HEALS

Take Away #9 Jesus heals His children whether or not they "deserve it."

CONCLUSION

It is only by **God's grace**—His empowering Presence enabling us to be who He created us to be and to do what He created us to do—**that we can do anything here on earth.**

It is as Paul says in **Acts 17: 28**

For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.

You are a child of God. He gives you all that you need to live, move, and exist.

He gives you all that you need to embrace and live as who He created you to be and to do what He created you to do.

Soaring Into So Much More

March 2022

Exercise: Throw Down Your Cloak

As you ponder this lesson, ask yourself these questions:

How Do Your Respond?

1. Do you focus on the negative?
2. Are you passively waiting for Jesus to “move the waters” on your behalf?
3. Are you proactive with the call God has given you?
4. Do you seek His next step and then take it?

Take Away #1:

You can't predict when you will encounter God in miraculous ways.

1. Do you expect God to meet you daily?
2. Are you open to recognize when Jesus is walking by your life?

Take Away #2:

Recognize and acknowledge who Jesus is regardless of the “climate” of your life.

1. Do you recognize who the power of Jesus for your life?
2. Do circumstances (political climate) shape how your recognize and speak of Jesus?

Take Away #3

Be proactive.

1. What is the next step God is asking you to take?
2. Do you daily ask God for the step to take today?
3. Are there phone calls to be made? Emails to write? Conversations to be had?
4. Check your cloud formation/vision. What things can you be doing to hone your skills to be ready when God says, Now is the time."

Take Away #4

Don't let others/other voices deter you from bringing Jesus to bear on your life.

1. What voices do you need to silence in order to have the courage to run after what God is calling you to do?
2. Who are your cheerleaders who will encourage you?

Take Away #5

Take the risk to throw aside your old way of doing things when Jesus calls to you.

1. What past attitudes do you need to lay at the feet of Jesus?
2. What labels and licenses do you need to throw aside?
3. Where have you been content to sit with complacency or status quo when Jesus is walking by?

Take Away #6

When Jesus asks “What do you want from Me?” Believe and ask for the miraculous.

1. What is your response to Jesus’ question “What do you want from Me?”
2. What is your big ask today?
3. What miracle do you need?

Take Away #7

Keep moving forward with Jesus after you receive your miracle.

1. What steps are you taking today to move forward in your God-given identity and purpose?
2. What steps is God asking you to take tomorrow, next week, next month?
3. How can you be a living testimony to the miracles God has done in your life?

Take Away #8

Jesus knows you and meets you where you are.

1. When have you experienced Jesus’ love, compassion, and Presence when you have needed it the most?
2. What daily habits and practices do you need to put into place to meet Jesus?

Take Away #9

Jesus heals His children whether or not they “deserve” it.

1. What do you need Jesus to heal in your life whether or not you earned it?
2. When has Jesus healed something in your life when you didn’t even ask?
3. How can you honor God and give thanks for Jesus’ healing?

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