

Title: Casting Away the Garments of Sin

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

Date: February 1, 2015

Mark 10:46-52 *“And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. 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.”*

Four things about this scripture:

1. **Who this blind man was:** *“blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus”*. His name meant “highly praised”. This man was a beggar. He didn’t have any possessions, or if he did, they didn’t mean much. Bartimaeus was the perfect picture of a sinner. Here’s why:
 - a. He was born in sin: Psalm 51:5 *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*; Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*
 - b. He was spiritually blind. II Corinthians 4:3-4 *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*
 - c. He couldn’t save himself. Ephesians 2:4-5 *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”*
 - d. *****
2. **The person he met:** vs. 47 says *“And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.”* Luke 18:36 *“And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.”* Bartimaeus was used to hearing people pass by him on the street. He realized something special about this time though – he realized that it was a different sound of the crowd. He realized that Jesus was the one passing by him, and he had heard things about this man. Did he hear about the four men who helped their friend see Jesus? Had he heard about the miracles that he performed? Matthew 11:28 says *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Isaiah 1:18 *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*
3. **What he did:** vs. 50 *“And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.”* This man threw off his garment because it was dirty and probably smelled. He exchanged his worldly garments for a robe of righteousness. Isaiah 61:10 *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”* Sinners cast off their garments when they come to Christ: they get rid of all the dirt and sin that has covered their lives. Christ then takes those garments, cleans them, restores them, and makes them complete.
4. **What he received:** vs. 51 *“And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. 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.”* How

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amazing was it that the first thing Bartimaeus got to see was the Lord Jesus Christ?! There are two divine truths in these last two verses:

- a. **The word immediately:** salvation is not something that has to be waited on. It is instantly attainable and always available. God doesn't save in steps and portions. He saves completely and all at once. We don't have to do one part, wait a little while, and then do some more. Blind Bartimaeus didn't have to visit the optometrist to realize that his vision was back. He didn't have any problem getting the image right – he knew immediately that he was looking at Christ.
- b. **The bible says that he “*followed Jesus in the way*”:** he did not have to be begged to follow Jesus. This was something that he wanted to do. It was a desire he gained by being made whole. If someone has to beg you to come to church and follow Christ, then you have lost your way. Your vision is blurred. You need to return to Christ and regain your sight.

John Newton wrote the song *Amazing Grace*. He once said *“I'm not what I ought to be. I'm not what I want to be. I'm not what I hope to be. But thank God, I'm not what I used to be.”* If you are not saved,