

December 3, 2023, Pastor St. John Eyre

Testimony by Brooke Smotherman *(scroll down for notes)*

SERMON NOTES (Pastor St. John Eyre):

The Healing Power of God

Mark 10:46-52

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. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

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

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

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

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

When it comes to stories in the Bible about healings, we tend to take one of two approaches:

- A good story from the past. God used to heal; the message is that God is powerful.
- We over emphasize them, making them the whole point of the gospel or of our ministry: All God wants to do is heal you.

Today, as we look at the healing of Bartimaeus, we will ask and answer two questions.

- First, can God heal you? Can Jesus heal you?
- Secondly, will God heal you? Will he heal you?



Our passage deals with a physical healing – a blind man receives his sight. But healing includes other types of wounds– diseases, injuries, emotional wounds, and even relationships. When we ask, “can God heal you?” what we should be asking is can God heal your body, your mind, your relationships.

Let’s take a closer look at our passage in Mark 10:46.

Can God heal your body? If you are ill, can he make you (or your spouse, or your parent, or your child) well? Can God cure your depression, relieve your addiction, restore your emotional well-being? Can God heal what has happened in your marriage, or with your parents?

A. Our text says he healed Bartimaeus.

As Jesus approached Jerusalem, Bartimaeus heard him coming and cries out for his attention. Jesus asks him what he wants, and Bartimaeus says he wants to see. In v. 52 we see Jesus’ response: Your faith has made you well. Immediately he received his sight.

B. Other texts say he can heal.

Throughout Mark, we have seen Jesus heal people: He has healed people with leprosy, the paralyzed, a shriveled hand, internal bleeding, demon-possession, etc.

The OT is full of examples. Not only in the OT times and in Jesus’ times, but after:

The Scriptures make it clear that God can heal people.

Not only that, there’s more:

C. Our experience says he can heal.

You are surrounded by people who would say they have been healed by God.

Our God is not powerless, he is powerful, and able to heal.

Our God is not distant, but near to us, and able to heal.

GOD IS MORE THAN ABLE TO HEAL

God is more than able to heal you – your body, your mind, your broken heart. God can heal you. Can you believe this?

So that settles the question, “Can God heal you.” We have demonstrated that yes, in fact, God is able to heal you. But that is only part of the equation. There is another crucial question: Will God heal you? It’s one thing to say God can heal you, another to say he will heal you. Does God want to heal you? Many of us labor under



burdens of un-received healing. Under what circumstances, conditions, will God heal you?

Let's return to our text in Mark 10 to find out.

A. Receiving healing involves faith - As soon as Bartimaeus hears Jesus is coming, he begins to shout.

He had obviously heard of Jesus and was convinced that he could help him.

He cries out, shouts, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" This is an expression of faith. He believes Jesus can help. Not spur of the moment faith, he'd been thinking of it. And when the crowd, no doubt tired of hearing beggars cry, tells him to be quiet, he just gets louder.

He is persistent. This is a characteristic of faith. Faith is involved. Jesus engages him to establish the existence of his faith, and to strengthen it by having Bartimaeus express it. Bartimaeus acknowledges Jesus as able to make blind men see. Whenever we have a detailed description of Jesus healing someone, we see the involvement of faith.

God can heal you, and you should come to him in faith. Faith is involved in healing.

Is healing automatic based on having 100% faith? People may say if you have enough faith, God will heal you, if not, your faith is to blame. But this isn't the case. There are instances in Scripture where people are healed regardless of their faith.

And there are times when you can have faith and not receive healing.

Healing involves more than faith. If you make sugar cookies but don't include sugar, you have a cookie but it's not really a cookie, is it?

B. Receiving healing involves God's will

It's possible to have plenty of faith, but if it is not God's will there will be no healing.

Bartimaeus received his sight not just because he had faith, but because it was God's will.

"If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." (1 John 5:14)

Sometimes, even though he is able, he does not, because it is not his will. Why not? If God is loving and powerful, why wouldn't he? How do we know if it's God's will? Is God just random in healing here and there?



In 2 Cor. 12:7-10, Paul talks about his "thorn in the flesh" that he pleaded with God 3 times to remove, but he didn't. Why? Because Paul's pain had a purpose: In his weakness he is strong.

This requires us to trust him.

And we can trust him, because he will only give us what we ask if it is good, best for us. And since he is God, he is in the best position to determine this.

If I believe God can, and I trust him to know best, I make him God, not just a genie.

GOD WILL HEAL YOU, WHEN YOU COME IN FAITH AND IN LINE WITH HIS WILL
Come today and ask for healing. Come today and seek God's will for your healing.

TESTIMONY NOTES (Brooke Smotherman):

The God of the Impossible

Isaiah 53:5

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes[m] we are healed.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

We have to believe that the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives inside of us

Romans 8:11

But if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies, through his spirit, who dwell in you

The same faith it takes to believe your sins have been washed away is the same faith used to believe God still heals today!