

**Your Defining Moments**  
Lessons from Blind Bartimaeus  
by Bryan Hudson

**Luke 18:35-43** **35** Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. **36** And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. **37** So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. **38** And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" **39** Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" **40** So **Jesus stood still** and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, **41** saying, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." **42** Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; **your faith has made you well.**" **43** And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Bartimaeus was a man who refused to be defined by his lowly state. He refused to be defined by his poverty and blindness any longer.

He was a beggar. There were few people regarded less than beggars. While there are no provisions in the Mosaic law for beggars. It developed with the growth of the larger cities and probably arose with the intermingling of other peoples.

Begging was associated in the OT with the wicked, for the children of the righteous never have to ask for bread: "*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread*" (Ps. 37:25).

He was reduced to asking for help. There was no social safety net in his day. He must have felt desperate and resigned. He felt embarrassed. He felt disdained, He was tired of begging. He was probably tired of being called "Blind Bartimaeus."

He was not the only blind man or beggar out there, but he was the one who refused to be defined by his condition any longer.

So did something uncharacteristic:

**38** And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

The other more "dignified" and healthy people, mind you, said "Man, Be Quiet!"

**39** Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Very important Key: **But he was ready for a change and a breakthrough. An amazing thing happened!**

**40** So **Jesus stood still.....**

Jesus stopped for a man that no one else would have stopped to care about.

**Bartimaeus was about to have his defining moment.**

*40 And [Jesus] commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, 41 saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”*

He said what he wanted...Plainly and simply. He could have “played humble” said something else.

*41 Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.”*

Bartimaeus was not only ready to receive a blessing, he was ready to follow Jesus. What kind of follower do you think he became?

Blind Bartimaeus was now called Bartimaeus “The Miracle Man!” Or Bartimaeus “A follower of Jesus!” He have even become Pastor Bartimaeus!

The heading to this chapter in my bible reads, “**A Blind Man Receives His Sight**”

The heading should read: “**Bartimaeus’ Defining Moment**”

Bartimaeus was the man who refused to be quiet when he heard that Jesus was near, even after they said "Man, Be quiet!" **You might say that Bartimaeus went up strong!**

It you watched the video closely tarks went up so strong, he didn't know how he would come down. He lost balance coming down and had to spin to stay upright. We need to focus on going up so strong that we don't not even think about how to come down!

What do you need to do, in the Name of the Lord, that people don't think you can, or should, do?