

**Jesus, Help Me to See!**

- 1. That I Need Your Mercy      2. That You Answer My Prayers      3. With the Eyes of Faith**

*Blindness*

- Never been blind before; always been able see; suspect same true most you, as well. But could you just imagine what like for this blind man to live in total darkness, not able see a thing!? Closest I've ever come to blindness: when child, grade-school; parents took us on vaca, Mammoth Cave. Walked deep into cave; tour-guide huddled tour-group all together; after dramatic buildup: shut off lights. There in depths of earth: complete, total darkness. I put hand in front of face; could not see fingers – that dark. Ever exper that kind darkness? Pretty eerie; I wanted those lights back on! Wanted to see!
- **Vs. 51.** The blind man in today's gospel lived in that kind darkness every single day. But it was more than just eyesight man needed; Jesus had more in store for him to see. And there's things Jesus wants us see, as well. So today we pray: Jesus, help me to see: need mercy, answer prayers, eyes of faith.

*Jesus, help me to see that I need your mercy!*

- There he was: this blind beggar named B. Everyone knew him: guy who sat at edge of city, begging for money; did it every day. But today was special day: heard commotion passing by, found out it was Jesus, cried out at top of lungs, **vs. 47b**. Kept calling out so loudly, so many times, people actually told him be quiet. **Vs. 48**. Needed mercy.
- We need mercy, too! Mercy = kind/comp shown to someone in desperate situation. Mercy comes from heart that hurts for sufferings of others. God's heart hurts for our sufferings, bec he knows our most desp situation: not phys blindness, but sin. Sin is our most desperate situation, bec sin pulls us away from God. It's basically rebellion vs God, so we don't deserve God's mercy. But need it! Need God's kind/comp to forgive our sins. And need this mercy thruout our lives.
- Need in younger years: teens/twenties, when in school – years we learn we enjoy sin, how get good at it. Those are years fierce tempt to do exact opp what God wants. For many sins youth: Lord, mercy!
- Need in middle years: when raising children, providing for family, advancing our career – years when often misplace priorities; so BUSY with so many things that we sometms neglect most imp thing – being fed and strengthened by God's Word. For all sins of middle years: Christ, mercy!
- Need in older year: when we feel more aches/pains, attend more funerals of fam/friends, when often feel lonely. In older years, tempted to despair, when look at: past (lifetime of sin); present (troubles around us); future (knowing closer to death than birth). For all sins of older years: Lord, mercy!
- So we need mercy; need God's forgiveness at every stage of life. So we cry out with BB, **vs. 47b**. Then Jesus opens our eyes, helps us see that mercy. Open your eyes, right now; look once again at cross: look at Savior shedding blood for you, giving up life for you, taking your place, to forgive your sins, show you mercy. Look at empty tomb; he won; Jesus risen; more powerful than death, than your sins; taken them away forever. Sometms our guilty conscience replays in mind sins of our past. Jesus: "I remember your sins no more." That's mercy! **Vs. 47b**. "Help me see I need/HAVE your mercy!"

*Jesus, help me to see that you answer my prayers!*

- When Jesus heard BB crying for out mercy, actually responded personally. Usually people just ignored; or if they gave few coins, weren't likely to strike up conversation. So when Jesus actually called him over, B was thrilled. **Vs. 50**. And then Jesus asked him this question: **vs. 51a**.
- Realize? – Jesus still asks us same question: **vs. 51a**? That's an open invitation for us to pray to Jesus. Jesus wants us to regularly, fervently, confidently come to him in prayer, ask him for things we want, things we need. "Don't be shy" he says. "Talk to me; tell me: **vs. 51a**?"
- But we find so many excuses not to pray: too busy, too tired, we forget, not sure what to say; maybe even feel nervous. But if Son of God loves us enough to die for us, we certainly don't have to feel nervous about talking to him. That's what he wants us to do! And Jesus promises to hear and answer

all our prayers, in ways he knows best. Sometimes his answers are different from what we ask for / hope for. But God knows best; has a plan; never shuts his ears; always listens; his answers are always wise. **Vs. 51a**, Jesus asks. Jesus, help me to see that you do answer my prayers.

*Jesus, help me to see with the eyes of faith!*

- Finally we get to miracle. You know how Jesus answered BB's prayer. **Vs. 51b-52**. Jesus flipped on lights. Down in depths of Mammoth Cave, our tour-guide eventually flipped on lights; I could see once again. Here Jesus flips on lights; and B goes from total darkness to seeing Savior face to face.
- We used to be blind, too – every one of us – maybe not with physical blindness. But blinded by sin and unbelief, living in total darkness, unable to see our Savior. But Jesus opened our eyes, so we could see him with eyes of faith. He flipped on lights when gave us faith: either at our baptism (when adopted us into his family) or whenever in life he converted us to Xianity – this is when Jesus turned on the lights, opened our eyes to see our Savior with perfect vision.
- Now we see Jesus with eyes of faith! In manger, God made flesh for us. In Gethsemane, praying for us. On cross, dying for us. In sacrament, giving us his body/blood to feed our faith. Outside the tomb, risen for us. Someday we will see Jesus face to face in heaven, because God has opened our eyes of faith to see Jesus as our Savior.

*Relating to Bartimaeus*

- I think in many ways we can relate to BB – even if never been blind.
  - B cried out, **vs. 47b**; needed mercy. We need mercy, too; and in Jesus we have mercy and forgiveness of all our sins.
  - B prayed for eyesight; Jesus answered his prayer. Jesus answers our prayers, as well, in ways he knows are best for us.
  - And Jesus gave B more than just restored vision; gave him eyes of faith to believe in Jesus as Savior. And that's greatest gift he's given to us, as well – eyes of faith.
- Now we can see what our retinas cannot (at least not yet): a Savior who loves us. Jesus, help me to see: all these blessings, now and for rest of my life.

### **Mark 10:46-52**

<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 Timaheus"), 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.