



Miracle 2: Jesus restores sight to Bartimaeus

Reference/read: Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10: 46-52, Luke 18:35-43

Key word/phrase: "Son of David"

Surprise: Jesus asked Bartimaeus a question, rather than assuming what he wanted and deciding on his behalf.

Key teaching verse: v51 (Mark's Gospel) *"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.'*

Teaching message: Jesus had walked the road to Jericho many times, he must have passed where Bartimaeus begged at the side of the road before, but on this occasion Bartimaeus called out to him "Son of David (recognising Jesus' title) have mercy on me!". What happened next for Bartimaeus happens today to so many disabled people, he was told to be quiet, not to be a bother, but Jesus heard him and asked for him to be brought to him. Now as a man, Jesus knew that Bartimaeus was blind; as God made flesh he knew what he wanted from him, but did he act on the assumption and just heal him? No, he did something really important first, he asked him a question... *"What do you want me to do for you?"* The gathered crowd must have been incredulous, but by asking the question Jesus gave Bartimaeus dignity and respect and allowed him to express what was on his heart... *"Rabbi, I want to see."* We could do a lot worse than to follow Jesus' lead when we meet someone with a disability, asking what we could do for them rather than assuming that we know.

Discussion questions: (1) Do we tell disabled people to be quiet? (2) Why is it better to ask disabled people what we can do for them than to assume? (3) What can we learn by asking?

See separate blog post: <https://theadditionalneedsblogfather.com/2017/10/06/accessible-jesus-modelling-inclusion/>

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