



'Bigmouth' Gets His Wish!

(Matt.20:29-34, Mk. 10:46-52 & Lk.18:35-43)



A blind man is given his sight.

"The squeaky wheel gets the grease," is a saying I have heard often in my life and the blind man in this story must have known that it would work. So he kept shouting and would not keep quiet - even when told to keep quiet! He Shouted, "Son of David - have mercy on me!" And he kept shouting as Jesus walked by among a crowd.

Jesus said: "Call him over." And when Bartimaeus was led over to Jesus and He was asked the question: "What do you want me to do for you?"

That was obvious - or was it? This blind man may have wanted Jesus to slip over to Rome and cause the Emperor, Caesar Augustus to be killed?, because Rome and her soldiers occupied most of the world. One can never be exactly sure what another person most wants but we can be sure that Jesus wanted the crowd to know that Jesus has the power from God to make Bartimeaus see.

Bartimaeus was born blind - and 2,000 years ago that made life, even survival itself, hard work, so he was a beggar. Blind beggars were a common sight in Jesus' time. Mark records one blind beggar, but Matthew and Luke record two beggars at the side of the road.

If you had been born blind and knew that Jesus, the 'Son of David' was coming by, with a reputation for healing - would you keep quiet when told to? Not me!

In those days there were no printed bibles, only what the Scribes wrote by hand on parchment or leather and they were in long 'Scrolls' and kept in the Temple or Synagogue (Jewish church). There, they were read out by the priest or Rabbi, so what you heard you remembered.

So Bartimaeus must have heard about Jesus, the long promised Messiah - the 'son of David' was alive and could heal people. **Wow! Blind people would really want to visit Jesus and try to be healed.** Bartimaeus replied to the question from Jesus: "Lord - I want to see."

Jesus did heal him and said: "Go - your faith has healed you." And the now-seeing-beggar followed along with the crowd. How happy he must have been, no blackness anymore ... but people, trees, the sky, birds and all the things sighted people take for granted without even being thankful, and he could now work and not have to beg.

LOVE and COMPASSION were the hallmarks (main features) of Jesus' ministry.

Sadly, these are sometimes a bit scarce in our world today.