***Mark 10:46-52*** ***Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.” 50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. 51 So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” 52 Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.***

This morning, we’re near Jericho with Jesus. Imagine we’re disciples following Him out of Jericho, getting ready to go up to Jerusalem, along a road that is notoriously dangerous. The road is known as the Jericho to Jerusalem road, and it’s this road that Jesus talks of in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus has a lot on His mind. He healed 10 lepers. Only one came back in praise. The sons of Zebedee are arguing. Their mama is asking Jesus to sit them at His right and left hand. The other 10 disciples are mad at these two, so there is bickering among even Christ’s closest followers. He’s on His way to Jerusalem to be crucified, He’s warning of the coming Kingdom, and His inner circle is arguing over who’s the greatest. And as Jesus comes out, He encounters a blind man. Luke 18 speaks of only one. Matthew 20 says there are two. The one we’ll meet this morning is Bartimaeus, according to Mark 10:46. Let’s see him there begging by the side of the road, as dust puffs up around our sandals and we smell Springtime in the air, and we walk with a great multitude all around us. But we’re fortunate to be out front.

In Luke 18:36, Bartimaeus hears the passing multitude and asks. He’s told it’s Jesus. In Mark 10:47 - *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”* We hear a cry, a scream is the idea of the Greek, “Jesus! Have mercy on me!” He cries out in desperation. Verse 48 tells us people told him to hush! Bart, you’ll embarrass yourself! Be quiet! Why bother the Master? *Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have nercy on me!”* How does one of my favorite people in the Bible respond? He cried out all the more! Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Bartimaeus Trusts! He doesn’t care who talks, how the make fun of him, he knows Jesus can help him and he calls out! We, likewise, call out! Jesus, have mercy! I am a sinner. Your Grace and Mercy is my only hope. I am blind, make me see. The world says, “Be quiet.” We cry out all the more! Jesus, help me see. Help my family see. Have mercy on my brothers and sisters. Have mercy on my nation. Have mercy on me. Can you see it?

Verse 49 - *So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.”* Jesus stands still. He hears these cries and calls. He hears Trust and calls. Bartimaeus can’t see, but someone close to Him says – Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you. And I’d say to any of you that have been crying out – Have mercy on me Jesus – rise, He is calling you. Jesus calls, but we must rise. He commands, but we must come. We must, as Bartimaeus does is verse 50 *And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus,* throw aside whatever filthy rag, filthy garment we’ve been covering ourselves with, and rise and come. We must Obey the call. We don’t fold our garment. We don’t ask someone to hold it. We don’t hesitate a moment. We throw it aside and rise, in Trust and Obedience. We run if we can, crawl if we must, but we come quickly to His side.

Verse 51 - *So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.”* Jesus asks the same question He asked James and John, as they wanted to sit at His right and left hand. How might I serve you? Jesus commands that we ask this question of all we meet. Those that will be great in the Kingdom of God serve. Jesus came not to be served, but serve. Do we come this morning not to be served, but to serve? It’s a great question. Bartimaeus says – I want to see. We say the same.

Verse 52 *Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.* Matthew 20:34 tells us Jesus touched them. Sight is received. But, He says your faith has made you, the Greek means whole, or saved. Our Faith in Jesus, our Trust, Belief, and Obedience in The Son of David makes us whole, saves us, makes us spiritually well and eternally alive.

Luke 18:43 tells us Bartimaeus’ reaction. *And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.* He Trusted. He Obeyed. He Praised. When the blessings of God shower down on us, when we have to cling to the Cross because the flood of God’s mercy is almost to wash us away, when we cry for sight and God gives us supernatural vision and understanding, do we praise? Bartimaeus didn’t ask – where are we going? Let me get my garment. No – He followed glorifying God and, by his example, brought others to praise God as well.

This week, do we Trust, Obey, and Praise? Are we seeking to serve or seeking to be served? Is service our purpose? Boldly cry out! When Jesus calls, throw aside whatever is at hand and run to Him! He longs to give us sight. Won’t you come and be made whole today?