

40 DAYS of PRAYER and FASTING

April 8, 2025 - Day 29

Holding Nothing Back

There are many fascinating and ironic moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. One such moment is recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

During Jesus' time, blindness was a widespread issue, with very few remedies available. Both Jewish and Roman cultures showed little care or concern for those who were blind. In fact, blindness was often seen as a punishment, either for the individual's sins or those of their parents. As a result, the blind had to rely on begging for food, money, and care.

In Mark's account, we see a remarkable encounter between Jesus and a blind man at the gate of Jericho.

Mark 10:46-52 (CSB) *They came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many warned him to keep quiet, but he cried out all the more, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!" ⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up; He's calling for you." ⁵⁰He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus answered him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Rabboni," the blind man said to Him, "I want to see." ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you." Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.*

The irony in this story isn't just that people tried to silence the blind man. The real twist is that, despite his blindness, the man didn't wait for Jesus to come to him—he rushed to Jesus! One would expect the blind man to stay seated, waiting for Jesus to approach him. After all, no one should expect a blind man to attempt walking without assistance to Jesus. But this man, desperate for healing, was determined to get to Jesus no matter the obstacles—whether it was the large, noisy crowd, the risk of losing his coat, or even stumbling blindly along the road. His belief was unwavering: if he could just get to Jesus, he would be healed.

Jesus is the answer to whatever holds you back—whether it's fear, addiction, broken relationships, or a lack of purpose. Jesus is calling you. Do not let any negative voices around you or the uncertainty of reaching out to Jesus keep you from the life you were meant to live. Jesus is calling. Get up and run to Him!

In Christ,
Pastor Tom