

Jesus Heals Bartimaeus

Jesus did many miracles to validate that He had power from God so that people would believe in Him. Think about meeting someone you don't know and they tell you that they are a major league baseball pitcher. You might ask them who they play for and whether they are a starting pitcher or relief pitcher. Also, how fast can you throw the ball? But if you have never heard their name before you might be a little cautious about believing they are who they say they are.

So, the man says, "Well, let me prove it!" He takes a baseball points to a fence 60' away and says, "I can hit that little cup stuck in the fence from here." So, they throw the ball and sure enough they hit the cup 'dead on' and you are impressed. Not many people can do that. But one pitch doesn't make him a major league pitcher. So, he takes you to a ball park and there is a catcher there. He throws curve balls, sliders, change ups and all sorts of incredible pitches. They put a radar gun on his pitching and he is throwing 95 miles per hour. Wow!

Now, a man comes up and says, "Hey, I know you, you're a major league pitcher." Well, that makes him even more believable. So, now you tell him, "I believe you are who you say you are. You have done things to prove it to me and there are people who back you up. I think I will buy a ticket and come watch you play baseball."

There is a person who has heard that this man is a major league pitcher and he buys a ticket based upon what he had heard. The major league pitcher says to him, "Since you believed I am a pitcher without my proving it by throwing balls at a park, I will give you a free ticket to the game today."

This is sort of what happened with Bartimaeus. He was a beggar. He heard about Jesus. Jesus did not prove himself to Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus believed him without that. So, Jesus gave him what he asked for, the gift of sight. You see, Bartimaeus was blind.

Today, too many people are blind to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God and you can only get to heaven by believing in him, confessing your sins, repenting of those sins and being baptized into Christ. Then begins the journey of being a Christian.

Scripture: Mark 10: 46 - 52

⁴⁶ 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 Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So, they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Questions?

1. Do you need to see Jesus performing miracles today in order to believe that He is the Messiah?
2. Why did Jesus not listen to His disciples and stop to help Bartimaeus?
3. Did Jesus do miracles just to show off?

Next Steps: Read the book of Mark and list the miracles by name that Jesus performed. You will be amazed.