

Bartimaeus

The very first thing I ever saw was Jesus' face. It was a kind face. I'd been blind since the day I was born and had never seen a smile before. But I knew right away what the look on His face had to mean. It meant He didn't see me as just another blind beggar along the road. He saw me as a person, as someone who mattered enough for Him to stop and heal. That means more to me than I can ever really put into words.

The minute I heard that Jesus, the teacher and miracle worker, was going to pass my way, I knew I had to plead with Him for help. I knew He was my only chance to see the world around me. If only I could see, I **wouldn't** need to beg. I could work like other men. I could help others instead of always having to depend on them to help me. It would change my *life!*

So when I heard Jesus coming near, I began crying out at the top of my lungs, asking for His help and mercy. I shouted as loudly as I could, trying to be heard above the noise of the crowd. People nearby told me to hush. "Be quiet, Bartimaeus!" they hissed, like I was some disobedient child.

I think they were embarrassed by how loudly I was yelling. Honestly, I was a little surprised at myself. For years I've sat quietly, making as little trouble as possible. I typically find shade somewhere on the side of the road. Every day, I've waited silently for someone to place a coin in my open, empty hand. Then I can buy food that day. That ... *sigh* ... has been my life.

But not today! Today, Jesus called me to His side. One minute everything was dark. Then Jesus said that my faith had healed me—and the light of the world came streaming into my life! Certainly, a man who has the power to change me in an instant has the power to change the world. That's why I've left the shade of this palm tree. I've left the darkness behind. Today, and tomorrow, and every day from now on, I'm following Jesus, wherever He leads!



If you were blind, what would you miss seeing?

Why do you think Jesus healed the blind beggar?

What kinds of miracles do you think Jesus performs today?

