

# Vision (Bartimaeus- Prison Message) - Part 1

by David Smithers

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*David Smithers emphasizes the importance of recognizing our need for Jesus and actively seeking Him through prayer, His Word, and fellowship with believers.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 46:10, Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 11:28-30, John 14:6, Romans 8:28, Philippians 4:13

**Topics:** "Being Present", "Spiritual Growth"

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## Description

In the video, the speaker expresses gratitude for the audience's presence and thanks them multiple times. The speaker emphasizes the importance of taking the time to be present and find opportunities to engage with the word of God. The speaker encourages the audience to appreciate the value of their time and the significance of being present in the moment. The speaker also expresses gratitude for the opportunity to share the sermon and encourages the audience to make the most of their time by being present and engaged in their spiritual journey.

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## Transcript

Let's pray. Thank you, Father, just for your presence here tonight, just what you're doing with your people, God. Lord, we thank you for your hidden remnant, Lord Jesus.

Your people, such a way that you've got preserved and are preserving and strengthening, Lord. I just ask you that you would do that work tonight, God, just continue just to build your church this evening, Jesus. Lord, I just ask you, God, that you would just settle us in our hearts and our minds, that you would just calm our hearts to receive from you, Lord Jesus.

Just let your peace just flow in this place right now. God, help me to operate according to your peace. Thank you, Lord.

God, I just ask you to answer these brothers' prayers that they've been praying this week for this meeting in a little bit tonight, God, just some small way that you would move and bend the hearts and draw us unto you. We just praise you, Lord. We just thank you, God.

We thank you, Lord Jesus. Hallelujah. Thank you, Lord.

Holy Spirit, we just invite you into this place to magnify and lift up the name of Jesus, just to exalt Christ Jesus. Thank you, Lord. We just bless your name.

We praise you. We thank you for your love, your mercy, your forgiveness that you have poured out upon us, Jesus. Thank you, Lord.

Lord, we don't want to play any games tonight. We don't want to just play church, go through the motions, sing a few songs, and say a few words. God, we want reality, and I ask you, Lord Jesus, that you would just pour it out right now in this moment.

Father, I need your heart. I just ask you that you would help me to be an expression of your heart. Lord, I stand before you and not before any of these people.

That's not what matters, so I just need you to flow through me this evening. I need your grace. I need clarity.

I need power in the anointing to be your ambassador tonight, Jesus, to your glory. Hallelujah. Thank you, God.

We just worship you. We worship you. Thank you, Jesus.

Come on, brothers, pray with me. If we don't do anything else but pray tonight, that's fine. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you, Jesus. We just bless your name. God, I pray you'd pour out your spirit.

God, so many folks in here, we're waiting, God, just to see you do a significant work. Lord, you've put within us a desire and a hunger and an earnestness to see you move like you've moved in times past, Lord Jesus. God, I pray that you would just pour out your spirit tonight.

Lord, magnify yourself. Exalt yourself, Lord Jesus. Hallelujah.

Praise your name. God, I pray you'd humble every proud bit of flesh here tonight. God, just let us bend and bow our necks and backs before you, Lord.

Help us, Lord Jesus. Praise you, God. Praise you, God.

Thank you. I pray that you would anoint your word, Lord, that you would just pour out your conviction in this place. Lord, I would long to see brokenness, God.

I long to see men on their face from the back of the house to the front of it, Lord, and magnifying you. And that's what we want to see tonight, Lord. Pour out your spirit, Lord Jesus.

Lord, we want this reality tonight. We want reality, Lord God. Thank you, Jesus.

Just expose every religious spirit, anything that would pretend, anything that would make pretense and act out of heart, Lord, that is not real and true, Lord Jesus. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.

We love you, Jesus. We love you. We magnify your name.

You're holy, you're holy, you're holy. Turn our hearts towards you tonight, Lord. Oh, Lord, that we would fall in love with you all over again.

God, that we would be breathless in our pursuit of you, Lord Jesus. Make us hungry tonight. God, stir up passion.

Show us what it is to pray and to speak your faith, Lord, like there's no tomorrow. Oh, God, stir up your people again. Revival.

God, capture these men. We're here to meet you, God. Lord, you know these men don't just need to hear me talk, Lord.

We need to meet you, Jesus. Thank you, God. Oh, visit your people.

Visit your people. Visit your people. Oh, that you would come down and run to heaven.

Jesus. Jesus. Oh, Lord, bind up every false spirit that would raise its voice up against your image tonight, Lord Jesus.

Hallelujah. Praise you, God. God, I pray that you just birth hope in this place.

Faith, Jesus. Break the shackles. Break yokes and undo bondages tonight, Lord.

Oh, with a glimpse of you, a glimpse of you. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

We love you. We love you, Lord. God, we just cast down every bit of fear of man.

God, help me. God, help me not to fear these men more than I fear you, Lord Jesus. Hallelujah.

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord Jesus. We love you.

We delight in you. God, I just pray also that these men, God, would just stir within them such a desire to know you. Yes, Lord.

Yes, Lord. Lord, that you would be closer to a brother to every one of these men. God, you'd be the comforter that they need.

You would speak words of hope, God, to their hearts that they can change. This is Sister Joy shared with us. Hope of a new day.

A bright light in a dark place, Jesus. Jesus, we'd love just to say your name. Hallelujah.

Lord, I just ask you now that you just help me with your word. Help me not to forget one thing that you've showed me about this passage. Bring clarity and strength to your words.

Let them be sharp, Lord God, tonight. Let them be penetrating. Let us not, God, help us have mercy that we would not be the same after the preaching of your word.

God, it would draw a line in the sand, Lord. It would let us know who we really are. It would not leave us indecisive or unsure, confused, that we would understand clearly.

Let your word divide those who are truly seekers of you from those who are rebellious to your ways, Jesus. Thank you, Lord. Help Noah and God tonight to entertain false hopes, Jesus.

Thank you, Lord. Make your word plain. Turn with me to Mark 10, starting in verse 46.

This is a really familiar story to y'all. The story of Bartimaeus, the blind Bartimaeus. This has always been a favorite passage of mine.

In it is a picture of those who truly seek, truly seek Christ and the costliness, the cost that there is to be a true seeker and follower of Jesus. This is also a pattern for prayer, a prayer for personal revival, a prayer for corporate revival. It's also a pattern for those who are just lost, those who are backslidden.

These are steps that we're going to follow through this little narrative of the life of Bartimaeus or an incident, a part of his life, that will show us what it takes to really apprehend Jesus, to lay hold of Christ. Speaking of Christ and the disciples, verse 46, now they came to Jericho as he went out, speaking of Christ, out of Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, set by the road begging. If we're going to receive anything from God, anything from the hand of Jesus, we must identify with Bartimaeus.

What was Bartimaeus? A blind, helpless, dirty beggar. He knew that he did not have what it took to make it through life. He was very familiar with his weakness, the frailty of his own flesh, and so he sat by the roadside begging.

He knew everything was dependent upon the mercy of others if he made it another day. Do you understand that? Do you understand that in and of yourself that you are blind, dirty, you can't make it through life without someone else's help? Because of this acute understanding that Bartimaeus had, he put himself by the roadside where there was traffic, where somebody could reach out and touch him. This is the first step to receiving something from Christ.

We must set ourselves in the path of Jesus. One old preacher put it this way, he compared this path to the Word of God. This is the pathway that Jesus often walks down.

You really want to receive something from Christ, and yet you neglect his Word? That's a great contradiction, folks. You cannot truly... it exposes the hypocrisy of our own heart if we claim to be a true seeker of Jesus and neglect his Word. Do you realize that this is a love letter to you? Straight from the heart of Jesus.

And if you want to receive and understand of that great love that he has for you, you must get in here and go over these lines of his desire and his ways for your life. Another one of these pathways that Jesus often travels down is the fellowship of the brethren. You know, you can't be a true follower of the Christ and neglect his body.

It's a contradiction. If you love Jesus, you love his body. Folks, we can't make it on the outside, much less you here on the inside of this place, without the support and encouragement of other brothers in the Lord.

You've got to have the household of faith. You've got to have that encouragement that comes day after day. Brother, you can make it.

Pray. Seek God's faith. He will be faithful.

You love Jesus. Are you seeking Jesus? And yet you despise the fellowship of the brethren? It doesn't work. Verse 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.

All he had to do was hear that Christ was coming. You know, some of you guys in here are waiting for God to touch you or do some miraculous thing for you to have some deep emotional experience before you really decide to sell out for Christ. Artimaheus didn't have to have the touch of Jesus.

All he had to do was hear that Jesus was coming. Have you not heard the word? Wasn't that the exhortation that came forth about believing the scriptures? Not because you felt like it, but because you just heard the good news that Jesus could change your life. You've got to believe.

You've got to believe Christ. Take him at his word. If we draw near unto God, he will draw near unto us.

If we draw near unto God, he will draw near unto us. How many of us are waiting, having this all reversed? We're waiting, sitting back in our little corner of the world, waiting for God to come to us. Have you stepped out to make yourself available to Jesus? Verse 47 again, he began to cry out and say, the first point of a hungry heart is a praying heart.

If you claim to be in need, you claim to want Jesus to do something in your life, and yet you fail to cry out to Christ on a daily basis, it doesn't wash. It doesn't wash. The hungry heart cries, and it's not some big complicated thing.

You know, a little baby knows how to pray. You let that baby get a little bit of time without a little bit of mother's attention. That baby misses a meal.

You start crying, screaming out. It'll let you know it needs something. It's the same way in our life.

When we need something bad enough, we start to cry out. I know there's some praying brothers in here been seeking the Lord. It's because they reckless unto you.

We just praise you, Lord. We just thank you, God. We thank you, Lord Jesus.

Hallelujah. Thank you, Lord. Holy Spirit, we just invite you into this place to magnify and lift up the name of Jesus, just to exalt Christ Jesus.

Thank you, Lord. We just bless your name. We praise you.

We thank you for your love, your mercy, your forgiveness that you have poured out upon us, Jesus. Thank you, Lord. Lord, we don't want to play any games tonight.

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God, we ask you that you would bring revival, that you would pour out your spirit. Thank you, Jesus. Oh, Lord.

God, we're here to meet you. God, Lord, you know these men don't just need to hear me talk, Lord. We need to meet you, Jesus.

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Visit your people. Oh, that you would come down and run to heaven. Jesus.

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Hallelujah. We love you. We love you, Lord.

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He knew that he did not have what it took to make it through life. He was very familiar with his weakness, the frailty of his own flesh, and so he sat by the roadside begging. He knew it was only, everything was dependent upon the mercy of others if he made it another day.

Do you understand that? Do you understand that in and of yourself, that you are blind, dirty, you can't make it through life without someone else's help? Because of this acute understanding that Bartimaeus had, he put himself by the roadside where there was traffic, where somebody could reach out and touch him. This is the first step to receiving something from Christ. We must set ourselves in the path of Jesus.

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You've got to have that encouragement that comes day after day, whether you can make it. Pray. Seek God's faith.

He will be faithful. Do you love Jesus? Are you seeking Jesus? And yet you despise the fellowship of the brethren? It doesn't work. Verse 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.

All he had to do was hear that Christ was coming. You know, some of you guys in here are waiting for God to touch you or do some miraculous thing for you to have some deep emotional experience before you really decide to sell out for Christ. Artemius didn't have to have the touch of Jesus.

All he had to do was hear that Jesus was coming. Have you not heard the word? Wasn't that the exhortation that came forth about believing the scriptures? Not because you felt like it, but because you just heard the good news that Jesus could change your life. You've got to believe.

You've got to believe Christ. Take him at his word. If we draw near unto God, he will draw near unto us.

If we draw near unto God, he will draw near unto us. How many of us are waiting, doing, having this all reversed? We're waiting, sitting back in our little corner of the world, waiting for God to come to us. Have you stepped out to make yourself available to Jesus? Verse 47 again, he began to cry out and say, first point of a hungry heart is a praying heart.

If you claim to be in need, you claim to want Jesus to do something in your life, and yet you fail to cry out to Christ on a daily basis, it doesn't wash. It doesn't wash. The hungry heart cries, and it's not some big

complicated thing.

You know, a little baby knows how to pray. You let that baby get a little bit of time without a little bit of mother's attention. That baby misses a meal.

You start crying, screaming out. It'll let you know it needs something. It's the same way in our life.

When we need something bad enough, we start to cry out. I know there's some praying brothers in here been seeking the Lord because they recognize their need. They know that they can't make it one more day without the help of Jesus, without the comfort of Christ, until they get on their knees every morning and pray, Lord, I need you.

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. Again, it's the mercy of God. He recognized that it was nothing he had earned, nothing he deserved.

It was all the mercy of Christ. Verse 48, then many warned him to be quiet, but he cried out all the more, son of David, have mercy on me. Then many warned him to be quiet.

Who are these that warned him to be quiet? You know who they were? They were some of Jesus' disciples. Some of those who were walking in this procession with Christ. And yet here they are, thinking they're doing Christ a favor.

They're hindering Jesus from getting to the very one that he came to die for and to pour his life out for. Then many warned him to be quiet. But what do you do? What do you do in the face of opposition when even, quote, good people will try to hinder your path to Christ? Do you give up? Do you sit down? Do you listen to them? Do you let the fear of man get on you and you back off? Bartimaeus didn't have anything to lose.

He didn't have anything to lose. He didn't care if he hurt those people's feelings or not. You know, this is a lot like a lot of places that call themselves church.

You know, some hungry, seeking people get in there and be quiet, brother, sit down. You're getting a little too loud. You're going to mess up our nice little Jesus procession, this nice religious thing we call church.

But I'm going to tell you folks, the hungry heart cries out for Christ. He doesn't care what men say or what men don't say, what they have or don't have. They're going to cry out till they get a hold of the one who can make a difference, Jesus.

Folks, we've got to resolve this. We've got to settle this issue that I don't care what men come against me, how they put me down, how they slander me, how they backbite and speak about me. I'm going to follow Christ Jesus because he's the only one, the only one that can solve the worries of our heart.

Verse 49, so Jesus stood still. Jesus stood still. I like that, don't you? I need Jesus to stand still for me a lot.

Just the thing that makes Christ stand still, that apprehends him, is this kind of praying hungry heart, brother. You know, there's some folks that even will spend a lot of time studying the Word, but they don't get on their knees. I don't know how it happens, but it does.

And if that's the case, the Word of God has not truly took root in your heart because the natural response of looking into this book is to get on our knees and say, I need this God in my life. This kind of prayer makes Jesus stand still. And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Then they called him. Then they called the blind man saying to him, be of good cheer, rise, he is calling you. There's an important lesson here, folks, and that is we better walk in forgiveness.

You realize that the same people now who are ushering Bartimaeus into the presence of Jesus were the very ones who were hindering him once before. You better watch your heart and be careful if you get in bitterness and get that ugly stuff all on the inside of you. God may be wanting the very brother that did you wrong, that was the biggest hindrance to you coming to the Lord and receiving the Lord's help, may be the very one who God wants to use to usher you into his presence.

We must walk in forgiveness. If we walk in unforgiveness and bitterness, we cut ourself off from the path of Christ. What would have happened to Bartimaeus if he would have refused to hear the words of encouragement, would have refused to receive the help of the disciples of Christ to come into the presence of Jesus? He would have been in the same place that he was when he first started crying out.

We better watch out over our hearts, folks. We let such little things divide us from the household of faith. Hey, I'll be honest with you, I've received more hurt, more discouragement, more abuse under the banner of so-called Christians of Christ than I almost ever did out in the world.

It's a place that you can get hurt easily, but we've got to put on the heart of loving kindness and forgiveness because the Lord may want to use one of those to bring you back, to bring you a little bit closer to Jesus. So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called him, then they called the blind man saying, be of good cheer, rise, he is calling you.

You know, and these guys, they act like they didn't even know any different. I mean, they don't miss a beat, you know. It's like they don't distinguish any discrepancy with what they were doing and what they're doing now.

That's just how some folks are, you know. And you can't get too, you know, bent out of shape and then expect them to make it right before you listen and receive. Verse 50, and throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

Hey, he hadn't been touched yet by Christ. He hadn't been healed yet. What would have happened to Bartimaeus if he wouldn't have picked himself up? How hungry are you for Jesus to do a work in your life? You're going to try once, you're going to cry out once, and if it doesn't work, then shut it down.

You're going to cry out twice, and then if it doesn't work, you're going to shut it down. Bartimaeus is persistent. He is determined to get a hold of Christ.

But look, he threw aside his garment and came to Jesus. Let me just share with you a little bit about the manners and customs of the Middle Eastern culture, especially the ancient Middle Eastern culture. In this ancient culture, your garment was the most valuable possession, one of the most, that you had.

It was so valuable, in fact, that in the Hebrew culture, they made allowances for their garments to be handed down for their children to inherit a coat, a garment, an outer garment. They were very valuable to these nomadic people that were exposed to the elements a lot. Especially now, think of it.

This is blind Bartimaeus. He's not drawing a check from the state. He doesn't have some little place to stay.

You know, this man is more than likely just living on the street. This outer garment was literally his shelter, his house. It was the most prized thing he owned, and yet when it meant that he needed to get close to Christ, what did he do with it? He cast it aside.

He cast it aside. A lot of us are willing to seek Christ until it costs us something dear, until it costs that most precious thing. It may be your reputation.

It may be material possessions. It may even be that your spouse doesn't quite understand this new love that you have for Christ. What am I saying? Toss your home up, cast that aside? No.

I'm just saying, though, you have to be willing to lay everything down in the altar to get ahold of Jesus. More than likely, this outer garment was also a badge of a sort that identified Bartimaeus as a beggar. It's believed by some scholars that these garments gave these men license to stand out in public and to receive alms.

It symbolized Bartimaeus' livelihood. The only way that he knew how to receive some kind of support was to be a beggar, and yet he cast this aside. It's also a sign of identification.

This represented what Bartimaeus was, a beggar. Hey, some of us identify with the things that we've always done, what we've always walked in, and we need to cast that stuff aside as we come to Christ. We can no longer think of ourselves in the way that we once thought of ourselves as we're coming to Jesus.

These old garments of worries that we've always been for years will be a hindrance, a stumbling block. They will trip us up. That's why Bartimaeus cast this thing aside.

He's casting it aside. What is there in your heart that is still so prized, still so loved that you can't cast it aside to come to Christ, to believe in Jesus? If you're not willing to settle this issue of casting everything aside, relinquish all control, yield everything to Christ, there's no more to talk about as far as you really receiving something from Christ. Do you settle this issue that I don't care what I have or what I don't have, Jesus, as long as I have you? That's the only way true salvation comes, is by absolute surrender.

Isn't that what our brother shared with us last night? When does the strongholds of sin and the grip, that hook that that addiction has in your life break loose? When you relinquish all control and say, Lord, I can't control my life. I need to surrender to you. And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

So Jesus answered and said to him, what do you want me to do for you? Hey, this is the question for all of us in here. God is specific. He's very specific about prayer.

General prayers will not cut it. God likes you to be very specific. What do you want him to do for you? What's the miracle that you need in your life? Tell him specifically, what is the area of bondage that you need to have broken? What's that area of hopelessness and fear that grips you, that you've got to have broken off your life? Be specific tonight.

And even as we're sharing, lift that up as a prayer to God. This is what it is, Lord. I put my finger on it.

This is it. I need you to do this for me. The blind man said to him, Rabboni, or that means teacher, that I may receive my sight.

For there had only been darkness and there had only been confusion. He wanted vision. Nothing else would do.

He didn't ask for a new cane, a new silver cup, or a senile dog that no substitutes would do. He needed a miracle. Some of us settle for far too little when we need a miracle in our life.

We settle for a little bit of contentment, maybe just a little bit of the friction and the stress that's on us, for that just to ease up a little bit. Instead of a real miracle and a change in our life, we're content with such little things. He wanted vision.

He wanted sight. Vision for his own life. Do you want to see what God has in store for you? How many of us don't want a sense of destiny, a sense of purpose, a sense of hope, something to live for and die for, and yet we're not willing to lay anything down? Hey, God does not invest in those who do not mean business.

He knows right now if your heart is really bent on surrendering it all and laying it all down. If you have that kind of heart within you, He will show you. He will put a vision in your heart of what He can do in your life.

Jesus is here to offer hope to each one of you men. He's reaching out. He's crying out through us and many others to believe in Him, trust in Him.

Let Him change your life. Let Him turn it around. The heart of Christ longs and yearns to change your life.

Will you let Him?

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/19/SID1907.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/david-smithers/vision-bartimaeus-prison-message-part-1/>

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