

## Throwing Aside Our Cloaks

By Natalie Madsen

*“Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’”*

(Mark 10:46-47 NASB)

Tucked into the tenth chapter of Mark is a little story that so perfectly parallels our helplessness and only Hope in Christ Jesus. Blind beggar Bartimaeus, seated near the road, heard of the Christ coming down the path, and in his great need, he cried out for Him. Resembling our own weak state, we likewise often collapse on the side of our path to eternal life with our Savior, weakened by worldly chaos and suffering. To whom can we cry for help? Our Lord Jesus, the Son of David – the One who is the *only* hope we have to renew our strength and lead us onward.

*“Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’”*

(Mark 10:48)

When we as Christians fight confusion and fail on our own to travel lightly the journey set before us, the world stifles our cry for help and even tries to offer some substitution as a remedy for our pain. But who is our ultimate focus on? and who do we allow to persuade us? The many that restrained Bartimaeus caused him to cry out “all the more” to the Savior: the world and its petty restraints should not hinder our longing for Christ but should result in increasing it all the more! The sinfulness and frailty of man on earth can offer nothing compared to our eternal inheritance. Our only Healer and Hope is Christ Jesus. Let us shed all things – ideas and temptations, desires and dreams – for the sake of focusing our gaze on Christ, the King of Kings.

*“And Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.’”*

(Mark 10:49)

Jesus heard this man’s plea amidst the multitude of people that surrounded Him and bade him come. What an admonishing thought it is to “take courage, stand up!” for He is calling our names. *“Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass”* (1 Thess. 5:24). He promises to hear our cry to our Heavenly Father, and in answer, when the Lord calls us, we cannot and should not stay still. Our only rescue is in His Almighty Hands.

*“Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.”*

(Mark 10:50)

When we hear His voice, let us *leap* to Him, throwing off all that hinders us – all that is of our worldly possessions! The poor blind beggar owned but a cloak for warmth – and he *flung*

it off and leaped into *darkness* toward the voice of the only One who was able and willing to help him and to loosen the burden on his back. Let us cling to the One in whom we have hope, discarding all that clings to us in order to trust in Someone greater than all other safety nets or insurance plans we may have. He is our one Joy, Peace, and All in All. He is Faithful beyond comprehension and Wonderful beyond belief.

*“And answering him, Jesus said, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ And the blind man said to Him, ‘Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!’”*  
(Mark 10:51)

Sometimes my sight has faltered from seeing the Lord’s Will in things or from seeking Him solely in everything I do. But He alone is my Redeemer, my Hope. I pray that when we break our gaze from Him that His Spirit would convict us so that we cry out for Him to restore our sight. We need to come to Him and ask His Will to be shown to us: let our eyes be opened and give us sight, Lord, to see You and Your Hand in our lives. Without Your Spirit within us, we are alone on the side of the road. Outside of Your presence, we are poor. Trusting in ourselves, we have nothing and are beggars. Without looking to You, we are blind.

*“And Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.”*  
(Mark 10:52)

Lord, restore our sight to You!