

Do Not Pass Me By

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Mark 10:46 And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.

Sermon Title: Do Not Pass Me By

Introduction: Jesus went to visit Jericho. No one received Him or asked Him to stay. So He is leaving Jericho. To the citizens of Jericho Jesus is a celebrity not a savior not a healer. Jesus has gone to many towns and because they compelled Him to stay, he would remain for days ministering and healing all who were sick. But Jericho would applaud Him, but not ask Him to stay. Only 2 men of Jericho sought Christ that day, one was Zacchaeus and the other was Bartimaeus and both of them were on the outside of the city.

1. Bartimaeus was blind and could not see Jesus for himself.

- A.** He heard that Jesus was near.
- B.** We know in scripture that Jesus does not stop unless He is called for.
- C.** Bartimaeus doesn't have all the time in the world, he has only a brief opportunity.

2. The last day church is a type of Bartimaeus.

- A.** The cares of life, the spirit of the world, and a lukewarm spirit can temporarily blind us to our spiritual needs and the nearness of Jesus.
- B.** How often does He pass near us and we do not respond?
- C.** The church needs to confess to our blindness.
- D.** Our roles today are reversed. He is calling for us.

Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

3. The decision to delay Deity

Mark 10:47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

- A.** The cry of a desperate heart. I want you, I need you, I am
- B.** Hungry cries from the heart will draw God closer to us
- C.** Do we want a visit or do we want Him to stay?

Point: Have mercy on us. Forgive us. We worship and repent and we cry out, "Do not pass us by!"

Time to forget our manners right now. Lay aside our religious protocols. God has always preferred spiritual hunger over spiritual ritual.

4. Put your hunger on display.

Illustration: A baby in church who gets hungry. Do you think he is impressed by the preacher or the singer? His hunger overrides his fear of who may be watching, what they may think.

Mark 10:48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

5. Jesus visited Jericho, but He did not stay. Only one man cried out to Him.

6. His coming is close at hand. He wants to draw near His church. The signs of the times.

- A.** I can't let Him come this close to me and pass me by.

Illustration: Fannie Crosby 1868 wrote one of the greatest most passionate hymns of the church entitled: "Pass Me Not."

“Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.

Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.”

Mark 10:49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

Mark 10:50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

Mark 10:51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

Mark 10:52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.