



NURTURING AND RECLAIMING MEMBERS (Sabbath School Program)

June 15, 2019

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Scripture Focus: Mark 10: 46-52

Suggested Hymns:

No. 284, "For You I am Praying"

No. 577, "In the Heart of Jesus"

No. 505, "I Need the Prayers of Those I Love"

Opening Hymn: No. 547, "Be Thou My Vision"

Opening prayer.

Warm-up: What does nurture mean? Turn to your neighbor and share what you think. [*After about a minute ask for some to share what they discussed.*] Today we are going to study an example of Christ and how He nurtured and reclaimed one of the lost sheep of Israel.

Introduction: We will use simple steps to study the story of the blind man begging by the roadside. Though you may be very familiar with the story, try to read the story as if it was your first time. We will take a three-step process.

1. What did it mean for the people at that time?
2. What is the principle that can be applied to all people at all times?
3. How can I apply this principle to my life?

[Split the class into groups of four or five for the purpose of observation and discussion. If you have a small Sabbath School class, then you can read and discuss as an entire class.]

- 1. Finding the Meaning. STUDY:** Read or have a volunteer read **Mark 10:46-52**. Ask the groups to discuss who the people are in the story and what they can find out about each person or group. In other words, who are the people at that time? What was their significance at this time in history? Then have the groups share what they discussed.
 - a. *Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to be crucified. Mark 10:32-34. This could have been just days before His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Mark 11:1.*
 - b. *The **multitude** included the disciples, Pharisees, Sadducees, Jews from Jericho on their way to the Passover feast, and a mixed multitude of people. Jericho was known to have Jewish rulers who lived there.*

- c. *Blind Bartimaeus is very unique. Bar means son in Aramaic, which could be compared to how English names are written – Johnson, i.e. son of John. Timaeus means two things, depending on the origin. In Aramaic, Timaeus comes from the word Tame meaning unclean. But Timaeus is also a Greek word meaning highly prized. This is rather unique because Bar is Aramaic, but Timaeus is Greek. The name Bartimaeus seems to have two meanings. It is as if Mark wants us to know that the “son of the unclean” is also the “son of the highly prized.” Could it be that the crowd, which was comprised of the disciples, and Jewish leaders and people, saw the blind man as the son of the unclean, but Jesus saw him as the son of the highly prized?*

2. Finding the Principle: Why was this important to the people in the story? *[Have the groups re-read the text and make a detailed list of the chronological events. Then have them discuss the significance of the events. Instruct them that the purpose of this step is to ONLY discuss what the events meant TO THE PEOPLE in the story.]*

What do the events of the story tell us about how Jesus nurtured and reclaimed Bartimaeus?

- a. Jesus travels to Jerusalem with His disciples, and a multitude joins them leaving Jericho.
- b. Crowds are blocking and rebuking Bartimaeus. (The crowd misinterprets/ignores Bartimaeus’ cry for Jesus to help him.)
- c. Bartimaeus calls for Jesus as the son of David (This is strictly a Messianic title in recognition that Jesus is the promised ONE).
- d. Jesus stands still.
- e. Jesus calls for Bartimaeus.
- f. Jesus commands the crowd to bring Bartimaeus.
- g. Bartimaeus throws away his cloak and comes to Jesus.
- h. Jesus asks him what he would like Him to do.
- i. Bartimaeus asks to receive his sight.
- j. Jesus tells Bartimaeus that he is now made whole (whole meaning to be saved).
- k. Bartimaeus follows Jesus as He continues to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Jesus stops what He is doing to listen to Bartimaeus’ cry for help. **Jesus** commands Bartimaeus to be brought to Him. **Jesus** asks him what he wants. **Jesus** gives him salvation and sight.

Why was this significant for those in the story? What lesson did Jesus teach those around Him through His actions? Jesus knew that Bartimaeus needed to be saved. Jesus first stopped to listen to Bartimaeus. When Jesus did stop, Bartimaeus was given an opportunity to come to Jesus, and Bartimaeus was made whole. The crowd learned that Jesus was able to reach those on the margins of society and make them whole again. Sometimes it’s the multitudes that prevent the people by the wayside of the church from being nurtured.

What are some principles that can be applied today? People are nurtured when they are brought to Jesus.

3. Finding the Application: Ask the class how we can apply this to our lives today.

Consider: Jesus' first step was to stand still. Sometimes we need to stop our daily tasks and notice who may be "calling" for help. How might we recognize someone "calling for help?"

Next Jesus called Bartimaeus. In what way can we call on the 'Bartimaeus' in our church? Think of some people who you have not seen for awhile at church. Consider how you may nurture and reclaim them.

Closing Question: Who are people in my sphere of influence that I can nurture and/or reclaim for Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Closing Hymn: No. 573, "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go"