



When God Decides to Stand Still for You

“And Jesus Stood Still, And Commanded Him To Be Called....” Mark 10:49.

There are a number of instances in the scriptures when God decided to stand still in order to pay particular attention to particular individuals in order to turn their situations right around. What does it take to arrest God’s attention and get him to attend to our situation? There are certain things that blind Bartimaeus did that arrested the attention of Jesus, and made Jesus stand still for him and commanded that he be brought before him. “And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they called the blind man, saying unto him, be ye of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee” (Mark 10:49). No matter what you may be going through, no matter how tough and challenging your situation or circumstances might be, God sees you and takes personal recognition of you and your situation, and he will stand still just for you. I mean for you. He can do that just for you today.

God Took Notice Of Blind Bartimaeus In The Middle Of The Crowd

“And they came to Jericho: and 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” (Mark 10:46), “As they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him” (Mathew 20:29).

It is very instructive that God recognized this particular individual called blind Bartimaeus at a time like this. At a time when Jesus went into Jericho and came out of Jericho with his disciples and a huge crowd with him. The bible describes the crowd as a great number of people, and a great multitude of people. There was great euphoria in the crowd. The crowd was full of noise and excitement. The Jericho experience is synonymous to power and excitement, yet there was an individual who appeared lonely and lost in the middle of the crowd and all that was going on.

It is possible to be in the midst of a crowd and still be lonely and dejected. It is possible to be in the midst of plenty of activities and a large crowd and still be totally disconnected, lost and miserable. Blind Bartimaeus in the midst of the crowd and all the excitement sat by the highway side lonely and begging for alms. What a contrast? To move from a situation with a huge crowd to the loneliness of a blind man sitting alone beside the road begging for alms in the same verse. This shows the extremities of life experiences. Your situation may be similar to blind Bartimaeus's situation you may be going through a whole lot and no one around you seem to notice or even recognize what you are going through, but the God who picked Blind Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus out of the crowd will pick you out and come to your rescue.

It heartening to note that in this same verse where a lot was said about the huge crowd, a recognition of the individuality of blind Bartimaeus was made. God did not forget Bartimaeus in spite of his predicaments. God had his details with him, and God never forgot his details. Not only did God remembered his name, God remembered his father's name. Even though he looked like someone who has be forgotten and consigned to live a life of misery all his life God remembered him. It is very striking that God remembered that he was the son of Timaeus, and that he always sat by the side of the highway begging for handouts.

God also recognized that Bartimaeus was blind and God never forgot that. The fact that he was blind was never lost on God. God knew that everybody has come to identify him by the fact that he was blind, and nobody gave him any chance that his situation will ever change. Everyone in the outskirts of Jericho knew him and called him by the name Blind Bartimaeus. But God took notice of him in the middle of a crowd, in the middle of a huge multitude. In the same way God will take notice of you. You are not just a person in the crowd, you are not just a statistic or a number in the crowd, you are an individual loved by God. God knows you by name, he knows the details of your specific situation. He understands all you have gone through and he wants to make a change in your life. God thinks of you, he knows the thoughts that he thinks towards you, and his thoughts are thoughts of peace, not of evil, to bring you to an expected end and to give you a future and hope ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)).

Blind Bartimaeus Heard.... What Are You Hearing?

The situation of Blind Bartimaeus began to change when he **heard** that it was Jesus that was passing by in the crowd (**Mark 10:47**). He heard something. What he heard resonated with his spirit. Obviously, this is not the first time he must have heard of Jesus of Nazareth, but this time around he heard with his inner ears. What are you hearing? Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (**Romans 10:17**). It is what you hear that will pull you out of your troubles or keep you there. Faith to move forward, faith to believe God can only come by hearing the true word of God. Fear and doubt also comes by hearing, but this time around by hearing the word of the flesh, the world, and the devil.

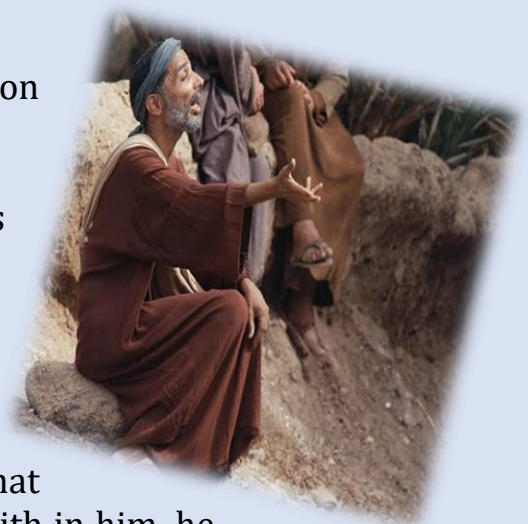
There is a huge crowd out there, and there are so many voices out there. The question is what are you hearing? What you hear will determine what happens to you. If you listen to voices of defeat and discouragement you will never be able to rise up. If you listen to words that sow doubt and fear in your heart, you will never be able to move forward. What you lend your ears to hear is very important. It is your responsibility to feed your ear with words that will bring victory into your lives. It is your responsibility to guard your heart with all diligence "My Son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart, for they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out it are the issues of life" (**Proverbs 4: 20-23**).

The woman which had the issue of blood for twelve years **heard** of Jesus and got up against all the odds and she pressed and touched the hem of His garment (**Mark 5: 25-34**). We need to hear the true word of God. "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world....." (**I Corinthians 14:10**). Jesus said My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, nether shall any man pluck them out of my hand (**John 10; 27-28**). "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (**I John 4:1-2**).

Blind Bartimaeus Took A Step Of Faith

"..... he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me" (**Mark 10:47**).

After Blind Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus that was passing. The message he heard provoked a response in him. He didn't just keep quiet after hearing the word. He did something about what he heard. He cried out to Jesus for help. He took actions to back up the word that he heard. He heard the word that Jesus was passing, and that word produced faith in him, he



believed that Jesus could do something about his situation. He then went further to act on his faith by calling on to Jesus at the top of his voice and with all the strength that he had in himself. His act of calling on to Jesus at the top of his voice is putting his faith in action. We must learn to act on our faith. Faith without works is dead. It took a great deal of faith for Blind Bartimaeus to continue to call on Jesus even when all those who were around him tried to stop him from calling on Jesus “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” ([Mark 10:48](#)).

Blind Bartimaeus threw all the caution to the wind. He didn't mind what anybody thought of him at this time. He cried at the top of his voice, he called on Jesus for help. He didn't care about being cautious at this point. He cried all the more even when all the people around him tried to dissuade him from calling on Jesus at the top of his voice. He put his faith to action by stepping out and crying to Jesus at the top of his voice. He was desperate and needed help from Jesus and he didn't try to hid it. After hearing about Jesus passing by, he could have sat down there doing nothing and Jesus would have passed him, and nothing would have happened to him. His situation would not have changed if he didn't take the steps that he took.

Sometimes, we have to step out and break the glass ceiling that men have placed over our lives in order for us to receive our break through from God. We have to reject the limitations that men have put on our lives, we have to step out of our bondage, and reach out to God in faith according to the word that he has spoken to us. It could be doctrinal or denominational bondages; whatever they may be, we have to break loose by the power of God. Everyone around Blind Bartimaeus would rather have him remain in his situation of bondage, they would rather toss him a few coins from time to time as he sat by the road side begging for alms. No one gave him a chance that he could ever be free one day, but he took his destiny in his hands after he heard the word that Jesus was passing by. You and I have to do the same. We have to take our destinies in our hands and reach out to the Lord whatever the cost.

There will be people around us who will try to discourage us and try to prevent us from reaching our peak in God but we must be focused and keep our eyes on the Lord and what he has spoken to us. We must keep our eyes persistently on his word. We must never give up. We must hold on to God for he is faithful and he will not forsake us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Blind Bartimaeus persisted and it paid off for him. It was not convenient for the woman with the issue of blood but she persisted, she pushed through the crowds ignoring all obstacles on her way until she was able to touch the hem of the garment of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus” ([Mark 10:50](#)). At this point in the life of Blind Bartimaeus nothing was going to stand in his way of reaching the Master. This was his moment of victory; a moment he had waited

for all his life. It was a moment no one thought will ever come for him. He stood up from the corner of the high way where he was and ran towards Jesus. He must have tripped and fallen down a few times but he wasn't going to give up. He threw off his garment which was hindering his movement. He didn't want anything to stop him from reaching Jesus. He cast off his garment and rose up and came to Jesus.

Like blind Bartimaeus we must cast away every little weight that may so easily beset us. These weight could be anything that weakens and depletes us spiritually. It may not be something that is necessarily sinful. It could be anything in our lives that may slow us down or constitute some hindrance in our spiritual growth and development. We must cast them off and hold on tightly to Jesus "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne" ([Hebrews 12:1-2](#)).

God Stood Still For Zacchaeus

Zacchaeus which was chief among the publicans sought to see Jesus, but he could not because there were so many obstacles in his way. The crowd around Jesus was much, it was an impregnable crowd for him. He was a man of little stature and could not push through the crowd but in spite all of the challenges on his way he never gave up. He persisted and sought to see Jesus. The scriptures tell us that Zacchaeus ran ahead of Jesus, and climbed up unto a sycamore tree to see him; for Jesus was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at the house. He made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully..... And Jesus said unto him, this day is salvation come to this house ([Luke 19:1-6, 9](#)).

Jesus stood still for Zacchaeus and deliverance came to his house that very day. Zacchaeus like blind Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by and immediately took steps to attract the attention of Jesus by calling on him forcefully and by climbing the sycamore tree. Both of them did not consider it an embarrassment either to call on Jesus loudly or to be found climbing the sycamore tree. They had their eyes fixed on Jesus and will not allow anything that man would do to them to hinder them. They persisted and God stood still for them. God can stand still for you today as well.

"And when they all saw it, they all murmured, saying, that he was a sinner" ([Luke 19:7](#)). The people around Zacchaeus never wanted him to have victory, they never wanted him to move forward. They saw him as a sinner, and they had all consigned him to die in his sin, but Zacchaeus decided to break that glass ceiling put upon him by man. He heard the word of the Lord and decided to stick to that

word. He held on to the word of the Lord. He decided not to allow the crowd to be a distraction to him. He did not allow what people thought about him to be a distraction to him, he didn't allow his profession as a publican to stand in his way. He was focused on Jesus and he persisted in his desire to want to see Jesus. And the cry of his inner heart came up to our Lord Jesus Christ, and when Jesus got under the sycamore tree he stood still for Zacchaeus and called him to come down. Salvation came down that day to the house of Zacchaeus. There was crowd all around and no one told Jesus that Zacchaeus had climbed up the sycamore tree but when Jesus got under the tree he stood still and called him to come down from the tree. Jesus sees you, he knows what you are going through, and he will make a way for you. He knows you personally, he knows you by name. He will stand still for you.

What Do You Want Jesus To Do For You?

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, what will thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I may receive my sight. 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**” (Mark 10:51-52). Jesus could see that Bartimaeus was blind yet he still asked him what he wanted from him. Jesus knew that he was blind but wanted him to be specific on what he wanted. It was possible that he may have been distracted and wanted other things from Jesus. Jesus wanted him to put his finger on what he wanted. Jesus wanted him to be specific. Our God is a specific God. He is not an amorphous God. The reason why many of us never get our prayers answered is because we are vague in our prayers, we are never specific in our requests. We always dance around the issues, and this will not work with God.

Blind Bartimaeus was specific in response to the question Jesus asked him. He did not come up with a long list, he only made one request “..., Lord, that I may receive my sight”. And Jesus said to him, go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. Immediately Bartimaeus received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way (Mark 10:51-52). It is important to note that he became a disciple of Jesus immediately he received his sight. His quest for Jesus goes beyond the healing and restoration of his sight. He wanted to have a personal relationship with a man who recognized him in the midst of the crowd. He felt the compassion of a man who heard his cry and called for him to come even in the midst of a multitude.

Many people today are seeking for the miracle but have no desire for a relationship with the miracle giver. Many want the gift, but not the giver. The process of the healing and restoration the sight of Bartimaeus made such an indelible impression on him, such that after he received his healing he was prepared to abandon everything else to follow Jesus in the way. Beyond the healing, beyond the excitement, beyond the answers to our prayers, are we

prepared to abandon everything else to follow Jesus and be his disciple no matter what.

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