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Lesson 7 – Blind Bartimaeus *The Gospel for Desperate People*

Where do you go when there's nowhere left to go? Whom do you turn to when there's no one left to turn to? What brings you hope when you're out of hope? What do you do when you're desperate? Too often we begin with a firm faith in Christ, and yet as the days, months, and perhaps years tick by, we lose heart. When God doesn't respond immediately we give up, and lose hope. Today we are going to see the story of someone in a desperate situation, and we are going to see that you should...

Keep crying to God in desperate situations.

I. The Condition of a Desperate Man (v 46).

A. He was physically blind.

This is the most obvious problem, and a problem it was. Blind people of the day lived entirely on the generosity of others, with no government help to sustain them.

B. He was spiritually lost.

Although not stated in the text, we know that this man was a sinner and needed spiritual deliverance as well, as the story will later hint at.

II. The Crying of a Desperate Man (vv 47-48).

A. His crying was perceptive (cf Matthew 22:41-45; Isaiah 42:7).

1. He referred to Christ as the Son of David.
2. He referred to Christ as Rabboni.

B. His crying was humble (cf Mark 10:35-45).

Unlike James and John earlier, this petition was presented with an attitude of humility rather than a posture of pride.

C. His crying was persistent.

The crying of this man persisted even when Christ's apparent disinterest and the condemnation of the crowd told him to stop. Truly desperate people will stop at nothing if they are given hope.

III. The Conclusion for a Desperate Man (vv 49-52).

A. Christ saved him.

Jesus stopped to hear and attend to the cry of this helpless beggar, even though he was about to head to Jerusalem to die. Yet even in the midst of this, Christ stops, Christ calls, Christ listens, and Christ saves. The term for "made well" is actually the same Greek word for "save" and highlights the fact that his faith has fixed his physical and spiritual problem.

B. He followed Christ.

How do you respond when you "get what you want" from God? God wants to take care of our needs, but our greatest need is him. He is willing to use secondary issues to bring us to himself, but far too often we forget God when we don't need him right now.