



Believing You Can See Series (Part 1)
(Believing You Can See Beyond Your Limitations)

Date: July 6, 2025

Big Question: What can't you see in your future?

Side Question: What will you NEVER become based on what you see now?

Text: Mark 10:46-52

Series Map:

1. **Seeing Beyond Your Limitations (Mark 10:46-52)**
2. **Partnering Beyond Your Limitations (Two Blind Men: Matthew 9:27-31)**
3. **Misunderstanding Your Limitations (John 9:1-41)**
4. **Why It Takes So Long to Get Past Your Limitations (Mark 8:22-26)**

Balancing Thought: You will never see everything perfectly. You will always grow in your ability to see. You will always walk by faith and not by sight.

I. Bartimaeus – The Blind Man with Limitations and a Hidden Dream

Three Questions This Story Makes Me Consider:

1. Am I dying in silence?
2. Am I overly concerned about protocol?
3. What could have changed in my life if I spoke up and tried?

Note: The Day Bartimaeus' Limitations Lifted and his Dream Came True

- **46** Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a **blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"¹)**, was **sitting by the roadside begging**.
- **47** When he heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth**, he **began to shout**, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, **but he shouted all the more**, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

¹ So "Timaeus" can be translated as "honorable" or "highly prized."

- "son of the honorable one" or "son of honor."



- **49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”** So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, **he jumped to his feet** and came to Jesus.
- **51 “What do you want me to do for you?”** Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, **I want to see.**”⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “**your faith has healed you.**” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. ([Mark 10:46–52](#), NIV)

Question: How Was He Able To Have His Dream Come True?

1. **He was listening** and heard Jesus (v47)
2. **He quickly responded** to the opportunity (v49)
3. **He was clear** about what he wanted (v51)

Question: What Made His Miracle Possible? (His faith)

1. Without faith he would have **stayed silent** and missed his opportunity (v47)
2. Without faith he would **not have ignored** those trying to silence him (v48)
3. Without faith he would not have **jumped up** to his feet so quickly (v49)

Question: What Changed In His Life Once He Could See?

1. He could **resign immediately** from his low paying begging job (v46)
2. He could **change his location** and not hang around the roadside
3. He now could broaden his **relationship options**

Note: Some options will never be possible in your life until you can see.

Question: “What Could I Not See In My Blind Days?”

- I could not see myself as a **Pastor**
- I could not see myself **married with kids**
- I could not see how **my lack of exposure** was hindering me

Closing Quotes to Reinforce the Message:

- Helen Keller the author and disabilities advocate (Born June 27, 1880 and died June 1, 1968. She was 87 when she died. She was both blind and deaf). At 36 years old she met 29 year old Peter Fagan a former news reporters who served as her temporary secretary. They fell in love and planned to elope. However, her mother and caretakers strongly opposed the marriage. She long regretted not marrying. Society at the time supported the families decision and she never married. Despite this she had a networth at death of about 15 million.

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”²

“Blindness isn’t just a condition—it’s a mindset. Bartimaeus wasn’t just healed—he was released.” (Charles Spurgeon)

Next Time: Partnering Beyond Your Limitations (Two Blind Men: Matthew 9:27-31)

Addendum 1:

- **Helen Keller, the renowned author and disabilities advocate, was born on June 27, 1880, and died on June 1, 1968, at the age of 87. She was both blind and deaf, yet became one of the most influential voices for people with disabilities.**
- **At the age of 36,** Helen met Peter Fagan, a 29-year-old former newspaper reporter who briefly served as her temporary secretary. The two fell in love and planned to elope, but their relationship was met with strong opposition from her mother and caretakers, who ultimately prevented the marriage. Influenced by the social norms of the time, society largely supported their decision. Helen never married and long regretted the lost relationship.
- Despite personal challenges, Helen Keller achieved remarkable success, leaving behind an estimated net worth equivalent to **\$15 million in today’s dollars.**
- She was also a **passionate advocate for social justice**, speaking out against racial discrimination and gender inequality. In a 1916 letter supporting the NAACP, she wrote:

“I am too deeply interested in social and racial justice not to wish to help the colored people.”
- She also championed women’s rights, including the right to vote and to be treated as equals in education and the workplace. As she boldly stated:

² See Addendum 1



“The inferiority of women is man-made.”

Major Books and Articles by Helen Keller:

1. The Story of My Life (1903) age 22

- Her most famous book, written when she was 22.
- An autobiographical account of her early life, her relationship with Anne Sullivan, and how she learned to communicate.
- A classic in American literature, often assigned in schools.

2. Optimism: An Essay (1903)..age 23

- A philosophical reflection on her belief in hope and positive thinking despite adversity.
- Famous quote: “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.”

3. The World I Live In (1908)....age 28

- Explores her inner world—what it’s like to experience life without sight or hearing.
- Describes her thoughts, dreams, and perceptions of nature, people, and spirituality.

4. Out of the Dark: Essays, Letters, and Addresses on Physical and Social Vision (1913)... age 33

- A powerful collection of her political and social writings, reflecting her socialist beliefs.
- Discusses poverty, labor rights, women’s suffrage, and racial injustice.

5. Midstream: My Later Life (1929)....age49

- The sequel to her first autobiography, covering her life from college into adulthood.
- Includes her work with the American Foundation for the Blind and international travels.

6. Let Us Have Faith (1940)....age 60

- A collection of essays written during World War II.
- Encourages courage, unity, and faith in the midst of global crisis.



7. Teacher: Anne Sullivan Macy (1955)....age 75

- A tribute to her beloved teacher.
- Tells the story of Anne Sullivan's life, their partnership, and the sacrifices Anne made to help her succeed.

8. The Open Door (1957)...age77

- A later collection of speeches and essays reflecting her global humanitarian efforts and philosophical outlook.

Notable Themes in Her Writing:

- Perseverance and faith in adversity.
- Social justice (especially for people with disabilities, workers, women, and racial minorities).
- Intellectual freedom, education, and the value of literature.
- Spirituality and optimism as guiding principles.

Next Time: Partnering Beyond Your Limitations

Question: Will the people you are partnered with help you get past your limitations?