



## **Unflinching Trust**

(Mark 10:46-52)

**Bottom Line:** To get the most out of our relationship with Jesus we must trust Him with anything and everything, even if it seems unreasonable.

**Imagine you were blind—how easy would it be for you to get around?**

**What kind of help would you need?**

**How would you describe spiritual blindness? How is spiritual blindness similar to physical blindness? How are the two different?**

Blindness is a form of physical bondage. There are places you can't go, things you can't do, and some freedoms you can't enjoy. But in some ways, physical blindness is a picture of a greater reality—spiritual blindness. In the same way that the physically blind Bartimaeus cried out for mercy to Jesus, those who are spiritually blind must cry out to Him for mercy. But both cries, from the physically blind and the spiritually blind, require the same motivation: trust and faith that Jesus is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do.

**Read Mark 10:46-52.**

**Why do you think Bartimaeus called Jesus the Son of David?**

**Why did Bartimaeus cry out for mercy? What does “have mercy” really mean?**

**How did people around him respond? Why?**

In that day, the blind were believed to be cursed of God. They were ignored and despised. The crowd saw Bartimaeus as part of the fringe of society, so they tried to quiet him down. But the blind man called even louder for mercy. By calling Him “Son of David”, Bartimaeus was using a title for Jesus that showed he believed Jesus to be the promised Messiah of Israel who would be a descendant of David. He was showing trust and faith in Jesus' identity as Lord and King.

**How does Jesus respond to the man's cries?**

**How did Jesus' response change the way the crowd was acting?**

**Jesus asked the simple question: “What do you want me to do for you?” Imagine you were Bartimaeus' position: What would you ask for? Why?**

**We know Jesus is God, and because He is God, He knows everything. So why does Jesus ask this question?**

**What does this truth show you about the nature of prayer?**



Jesus asks this question to get at one thing: the truth. He wants to see the disposition of Bartimaeus' heart—and for Bartimaeus to know it, too. When we come to Jesus asking for something, He already knows what we need. But He wants us to ask Him anyway because He's interested not only in what we ask for, but the heart behind our request.

**What does Bartimaeus' response show us about His heart?**

Bartimaeus' request shows two things: humility and trust. He trusted Jesus to do something he couldn't imagine. To present a true, honest, gut-level request like this before Jesus took a tremendous amount of trust. In our case, experiencing freedom requires the same kind of trust. We should be willing to go to God or others with the same bold requests. But trust isn't easy.

**Do you ever struggle to pray honestly with God? Why?**

**Why do you think we have a hard time trusting people—even trusting Jesus?**

When people ask us how we are doing, we usually respond by saying, "Fine" even if that's not the truth. We usually spin our situations, we hide what's going on in our lives, because we're afraid to live in the freedom that Jesus offers. Bondage is easier many times than honesty because that level of honesty requires us to face our own great need.

**APPLICATION**

**Who in your life can you speak to about the difficulties of life? Do you have any friends that can help you when things get hard? Who can you turn to when you need help, when you need encouragement, when you need prayer?**

**If you do have these people, are you completely honest with them? Why or why not? What's holding you back from trusting them? Do you think you could take the first step towards building trust and relationship by confiding in them?**

**If you do not have these people in your life, why not? Why have you walled yourself off from accountability and help? Do you feel that you don't need it? That's a very dangerous form of pride that will soon catch up with you in a bad way. Who can you reach out to? Who can you begin building relationships with? Who can you begin being honest with?**