

SURE & CERTAIN STEPS TOWARD THE HEALER

PART 1

*Having come through cancer, I can testify, there **is** a way out of sickness and suffering – I wrote a book about my journey ...*

- *You may have tried all the principles of healing –*
- *You may have done all you were told to do ...*
- *You may have confessed scripture ...*
Rebuked the devil ...
Repented ...
Taken communion ...
Confessed to others ...
And you are still sick and suffering ...

BUT THERE IS A WAY OUT!

I find that this man ‘Bartimaeus’ went through a similar process to me.

*So as we look closely at this true story, I hope to bring out these **sure and certain steps that brought him to the Healer ...** as it also did with me.*

Mark 10:46-52 **SLIDES x 3**

*Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, **blind Bartimaeus**, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. ⁴⁷ And when **he heard** that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Then **many warned him to be quiet**; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying, “**Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.**”*

⁵⁰ **And throwing aside his garment**, he rose and came to Jesus. (How long was that short walk ...)

⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.”

⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and **followed Jesus** on the road.

SLIDE THERE ARE 3 IMPORTANT CHARACTER-TYPES IN THIS SCENARIO ...

1. THERE IS: JESUS – THE HEALER
2. THERE IS: THE DISCIPLES & PEOPLE – THE CONGREGATION
3. THERE IS: ONE INDIVIDUAL CALLED, BLIND BARTIMAEUS – THE PERSON WITH THE PROBLEM

LET'S START WITH BLIND-BARTIMAEUS

*This man's condition represents **any negative condition any of us may be afflicted with.***

*The lessons we can learn here apply to more than a blind man being healed – they apply to any negative condition. So whatever debilitating condition you might be facing ... **see that, in place of 'blindness'.***

THERE WAS ALSO A PROCESS THAT BROUGHT THIS MAN TO THE HEALER & HIS HEALING ...

SO THE FIRST THING WE ARE TOLD ABOUT THIS MAN IS ...
He not only had a debilitating physical condition – blindness -

HIS CONDITION HAD BECOME A PART OF WHO HE WAS

We read in the King James Version and the New King James Version, his affliction was built into his name!

*THEY NAMED HIM **'BLIND-BARTIMAEUS ...'***

And even though the original language doesn't say exactly that ... it does allude to it, calling him, 'The Blind Man, Bartimaeus'.

*WE ALSO READ OF ANOTHER GUY WHO WAS CALLED BY HIS AFFLICTION - THIS WAS **SIMON THE LEPER**, which is the exact translation (Matthew 26:6)*

*Can you imagine being called **Diana-Diabetes ... Charlene-Celiac ... Dave-Depression ... Barry-Bipolar ... Chris –Cancer ...***

IT IS REPREHENSIBLE – IT IS DISGRACEFUL ... APPALLING ... SHAMEFUL

People often identify less fortunate people by their afflictions ... and they in turn often start to believe that's who they are.

If you asked someone who 'this man' was, they would say, "He's 'Blind-Bartimaeus'."

So, this man not only had a debilitating disability to deal with, he had a negative definition from society hung around his neck, locking him into an inescapable prison. His problem had taken over his life.

THIS IS THE STATE OF FALLEN MAN.

So, like this blind man, our afflictions can become a part of us and become a part of our identity.

SLIDE WE BECOME CHAINED TO OUR CONDITION

It is impossible to get free from something that has become a part of you.

You and the condition become one.

Your self-worth is zero ... less than zero ... you feel like a beggar ... sitting at the lowest place in society ... at the feet of mankind as they walk past.

HOWEVER, IN CHRIST, YOU ARE NOT YOUR CONDITION

YOU ARE NO LONGER A SINNER ... NO LONGER A BEGGAR ... NO LONGER AN INVALID ...

**YOU MAY HAVE A CONDITION
BUT YOU ARE NOT THAT CONDITION**

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 NLT **SLIDE**

... We have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view ... This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

**SO LET'S LOOK AT BART'S SURE & CERTAIN STEPS OUT
OF HIS CONDITION TOWARD THE HEALER ...
STEPS TOWARD HEALING & WHOLENESS**

1. BART CRIED OUT

Mark 10:47 **SLIDE**

And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped in his tracks at the sound of Bart's cry.

Your need is so important to Jesus that He stops for you, when He hears your cry.

The moment He hears He will answer

Isaiah 30:19 NASB 1995

O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

Psalm 40:1-2

... He ... heard my cry.

When God heard the cry of The Children of Israel, He sent a deliverer.

THE DEPTH OF THE CRY

When we cry from the depth of our heart, God hears and often waits for us to plumb that depth within us.

David said, '*Out of The Depths I have cried to you ...*' (Psalm 130:1)

HAVE YOU REACHED THAT DEPTH YET?
IT IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THE HEALER.

WHY DID BART CRY OUT?

THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD STARTED THIS WHOLE PROCESS

JESUS PASSED RIGHT BY HIM.

Bart became aware of the presence of Jesus and responded ...

Bart cried out to Jesus and for Jesus.

So many of us sense the presence of Jesus among us ... in church ... in our worship ...

But we don't respond ...

It's not enough for us to sense the presence of Jesus among us ...

We must respond to Him ... **cry out to Him – for Him**

- **BART CRIED OUT FOR JESUS HIMSELF ...**

Bart didn't cry out for healing as such.

BART CRIED OUT FOR THE HEALER

So many seek healing ... and not the Healer ...

We become overwhelmed by our condition ... and become obsessed with our problem.

This puts the problem in focus ... like a great barrier in between us and Jesus ...

People pray and sing, 'I believe you're my Healer' ...

Can you hear the striving in that? -

I'M CONFESSING 'I BELIEVE' BECAUSE I'M REALLY STRUGGLING TO BELIEVE ...'

But His presence has to be our main focus.
His presence will create the cry in you for Him, Himself.
Healing is not the focus; the Healer is.

When I was unwell with cancer ... there were times His presence in me was so great ... I momentarily forgot I was unwell.

- **BART CRIED OUT PAST PUBLIC OPINION & PREJUDICE**

Mark 10:48 **SLIDE**

*Then **many warned him to be quiet**; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

You cannot be 'put-off' by people's opinions and prejudice.
Public opinion is most of the time grossly wrong.
Once again ... the presence of Jesus is greater than public opinion.
GO PAST PUBLIC OPINION ...

2. BART ENTERED THE CONGREGATION

Notice Jesus arrives on the scene in the midst of the congregation – surrounded by His disciples and followers ...

Mark 10:46 **SLIDE**

... As He [Jesus] went out of Jericho [He was] with His disciples and a great multitude ...

THIS REPRESENTS THE CHURCH-FELLOWSHIP ... WITH JESUS IN THE MIDST

This healing happened not in isolation (even though it can)
This healing happened in the midst of the congregation ... as the majority of healings do.

JESUS TODAY, IS IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION

Matthew 18:20 Amplified Bible

For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them."

YOUR ANSWER IS IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION

That's why you should endeavour to come to church-fellowship because Jesus is manifest there ...

You say, 'But people don't like me in the church and I don't like them ...'

Well, that did not put Bart off ... and he found Jesus in the midst of initially negative people.

Look at how they treated him at the start -

Mark 10:48 **SLIDE**

*Then **many warned him to be quiet**; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

Look at how the same people treated him after Jesus had spoken -

Mark 10:49 **SLIDE**

*So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying, "**Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.**"*

*Isn't it amazing how **the spoken word of Jesus changes people's opinions** and kills their prejudice?*

How we need Jesus Living Word to be heard in the congregation ...

ENTER THE FELLOWSHIP BECAUSE JESUS IS MANIFEST IN FELLOWSHIP

Don't stop attending fellowship because your condition makes you a reject ... a lesser person ...

Many people have said to me, 'I didn't come to church because I was a mess ...'

Others say, 'I didn't want people to see me cry ...'

This concept of being a perfect Christian is flawed.

We all have our issues ... pressures ...

We are constantly under the enemy's attack and it's here in church we are allowed to be ourselves ...

Open up despite what people might think ... Jesus is here.

Don't allow people's attitudes to keep you from fellowship ...

Jesus is there ...

REMEMBER ... THE CHURCH DOES NOT BELONG TO THE PASTOR OR TO THE CONGREGATION.

We call it 'our church' only because we belong to it, but we don't own it or control it ...

**JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH
JESUS IS IN THE MIDST OF THE CHURCH**

Jesus stood in the midst of 7 golden lampstands which are the 7 churches (Revelation 1:20)

JESUS is in the centre of the church.

Ephesians 2:22 NIV

... In him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

THE HEALER IS IN THE MIDST OF FELLOWSHIP

Enter the fellowship no matter what people initially think of you ...
You are not there for them ... you are there for Him ... and He is in the midst ...

NB: THE MINISTRY OF THE BODY ...

- *Initially Jesus didn't speak to Bart ...*
He spoke to His followers to speak to Bart.
- *Bart didn't hear Jesus directly ...*
His followers did ... and **they in turn ministered His word** to the needy.
- **BART ACCEPTED THE MINISTRY OF JESUS' WORD THROUGH HIS FOLLOWERS.**

We should also receive the ministry of Jesus' word through others.

I've known people who say, 'I don't need to attend church or hear sermons ... Jesus speaks to me directly.'

Then you look at them and wonder ... 'Hmmm' ...

The spoken Rhema-word of Jesus makes the difference between a carnal church and a spiritual church ...

Oh, how we need preachers and teachers ... pastors and leaders to speak what God is saying ... and not just a Pop-Gospel.

NB: What a difference the true word of Jesus makes to a church congregation

- **NB: THE 'WORD' JESUS' FOLLOWERS BROUGHT POINTED TO JESUS & LED THE MAN TO JESUS.**

This is The True ministry of The Gospel ... It will always lead to Jesus.

Anything else produces fleshly results.

• NB: **THE WORD** WAS BROUGHT BY MANY – ‘**THEY SAID**’ ... IT WAS NOT SOME PRIVATE WORD – BEWARE OF THAT.

3. BART THREW AWAY HIS BEGGAR’S CLOAK

Mark 10:50 **SLIDE**

And throwing aside his garment [cloak], he rose and came to Jesus.

- *THE BEGGAR’S CLOAK IS COMFORT ... IT WRAPS AROUND ME*
- *THE BEGGAR’S CLOAK IS FAMILIARITY ... IT’S SOMETHING I KNOW*
- *THE BEGGAR’S CLOAK IS SECURITY ... IT WAS HIS LIVELIHOOD*

*Beggars were given cloaks, which gave them permission to beg. Beggars were defined as such by the cloak they wore. The cloak was the beggar’s only possession and **their only source of income.***

What caused him to leave his beggar’s cloak ... the only security he had?

BART RESPONDED TO THE WORD OF JESUS.
THIS EMPOWERED HIM.

He abandoned to the word of hope given to him.

He didn’t do it just because he decided to do it ... He did it out of obedience.

BART DISCARDED HIS OLD IDENTITY WITH DISGUST.

Don’t make friends with your sick props. Don’t get sentimental. Treat them with the disdain they deserve.

4. BART JUMPED TO HIS FEET

SLIDE **Enthusiasm and Expectation**

My little dog Daisy waits for me to finish my work. When I close the laptop she looks up with wide eyes of expectancy hoping that we are going to go for a walk. At this point, I only need to say one word ... ‘OK,’ and she goes

nuts with excitement. She jumps to her feet ... and barks profusely ... knowing I am taking her for a walk.

This is a small example of how Bart was when he heard the word of Jesus to come to Him. The phrase 'he rose' means 'he jumped to his feet'.

And remember, he heard the invitation second hand ... not directly.

5. BART BEGAN HIS BLIND WALK TO JESUS **SLIDE**

Mark 10:50

*And throwing aside his garment [cloak], **he rose and came to Jesus.***

NB: Jesus didn't go to him.

Jesus stood still and **the man had to walk to Jesus ... a blind walk** toward the personal presence of Jesus.

(How long was that short walk?)

- **EACH STEP BY FAITH TOWARD JESUS HIMSELF**
- **EACH STEP FULL OF EXPECTATION & ENTHUSIASM**

SLIDE

- **EACH STEP FURTHER & FURTHER AWAY FROM HIS BEGGAR'S CLOAK & **CLOSER & CLOSER TO JESUS HIS HEALER.****

NOW DID BART RECEIVE HIS EYESIGHT STRAIGHT AWAY? NO!

HOW MANY STEPS DID BART HAVE TO MAKE STILL WITH THE CONDITION?

LET'S SAY 21 ...

*Well for us, each step may represent a week ... a month ... a year ...
But we keep going toward the Healer.*

IT IS A PROGRESSIVE PROCESS IN FAITH TOWARD THE HEALER.

KEEP GOING FORWARD TO CHRIST ... even though you may physically have the condition.

LIVE EACH STEP IN EXPECTANCY AND QUIET ENTHUSIASM OF HOPE OF JESUS YOUR HEALER AHEAD –

Your healing is ahead in Jesus ...

NB: It's 'NOT FOCUSING' on your FAITH OR ABILITY TO BELIEVE.
FAITH IS ACTIVE IN YOU FROM HIS WORD SPOKEN TO YOU ...
ABANDON TO IT.

YOU MAY STILL HAVE THE PROBLEM ... BUT THE PROBLEM WON'T HAVE YOU.

- BART DIDN'T STOP ... *HE KEPT GOING* ...

So many of us start ... and then stop and think ...

This is not the time to think negative thoughts and allow feelings to create doubt ... and start the 'what ifs'.

Bart didn't get cold feet

- BART DIDN'T LOOK BACK

There can be no looking back at the beggar's cloak.

So many people we know start this journey toward recovery both spiritual and physical ... and turn back to their beggar's cloak.

- BART DIDN'T CONSIDER HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION

This man's condition was still with him ...

But he didn't consider his condition any more.

This blind man could see Jesus in his heart ...

Hope was his motivation ...

For me it was not a quick cure ... but it was a wonderful walk 'in' faith and 'from' faith ... a walk of tiny steps ... personal steps ... powerful steps ... gentle steps ... secret steps revealed by God Himself ... one foot after another, after another, after another ... out of sickness and forward into the arms of Jesus.