

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home: Rise, He Is Calling You (Bartimaeus)

A standalone deep-dive session

What We Found

On the road out of Jericho, days from the cross, a blind beggar with a name, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, heard the footsteps and shouted a messianic title: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. Many told him to be silent; he cried out all the more, and Jesus stopped and said: call him. He threw off his mantle, perhaps his coin-catcher and likely his only property, before any healing happened, and sprang up to come to him. Then the astonishing question: what do you want me to do for you? Everyone else had managed him; Jesus made him the author of his own request. Master, let me receive my sight. The prophets had named the opening of blind eyes as a sign of God's own coming (Isaiah 35:5), a healing the Old Testament never records of any prophet. Healed and set completely free, "go your way," his eyes and his feet agreed: he followed him on the way. His shout was never put down; the Church prays it still.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. John Chrysostom *Homilies on Matthew (summary)*

Christ rewarded precisely the persistence the crowd tried to suppress; the shushing is often the seeker's final exam.

St. Bede the Venerable *Commentary on Mark (summary)*

The mantle is the old security thrown off so nothing slows the run toward Christ: what the rich man could not drop with his eyes open, the blind man dropped on the strength of a call.

The Jesus Prayer *the Church's ancient tradition (CCC 2667)*

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." The blind men's cry for light, joined with the publican's plea, handed down in East and West as a simple invocation for praying always (CCC 2667).

Live It This Week

1. Write your private answer to His question: what do you want me to do for you?
2. Try Bartimaeus's sentence once, as a prayer, exactly as he said it.
3. If someone once shushed your honest question, ask it again, to someone safe.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"And Jesus said to him, What do you want me to do for you? And the blind man said to him, Master, let me receive my sight." **Mark 10:51**

If You Want More

This session stands alone. It shares a chapter with the deep-dive on the rich young man; read Mark 10 whole and watch the mantle answer the possessions. **Catechism references:** CCC 2616, 2667, 1504.