

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

March 2, 2022

Mark 10:46-52

Security Blanket

As Christians we ought to be able to point to a day when the words of Blind Bartimaeus were our own. We may have cried out to the Lord for salvation. We may have desperately sought His relief from a hopeless life. We may have been convinced and convicted of our sin, resulting in our turning to Christ. We may have been overwhelmed with His love and joyfully received Jesus. One way or another, like Bartimaeus, we responded to the Son of David and were turned from death to life. Romans 5:10, 8:6. We were healed of sin and its consequences. We were forgiven and given a new life. Romans 6:4. We may have been plagued by some great infirmity and were miraculously healed as was our sightless brother. Every story is different yet our family affiliation is the same. We have become brothers and sisters, drawn together over a common bond. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. Now, a question. Prior to meeting Christ what did you depend on? Where did you find peace or happiness? Did you rely on something or someone for your security? As we have been forgiven and cleansed from our sin we have also been set free from its control. However, being weak and unstable in our faith due to our fallen humanity we often doubt the power of Christ and we begin to again find familiar comfort in old ways. Galatians 4:9, 5:1. In today's passage we can note that Bartimaeus (Son of the unclean; of Chaldee origin) as he was encountering Jesus, cast away (literally threw off) his garment. Why is this notable? As Sunday's speaker made clear, a blind man's garment or cloak was his comfort from weather and catchall for alms. Being blind he knew well that he may never find it again in the crowded streets of Jericho. He would be unwise to cast it away unless his faith assured him that he would no longer need it. If faith is the evidence of things unseen (Hebrews 11:1) how much more is faith paramount to a blind man?! He fully believed he would receive his sight and his life would be changed. His lonely days of begging would end. Verse 52 tells us Jesus healed him because of his faith and in sending him away he would instead become His follower. The security of his garment was no longer needed. His security was now found in his Savior. The Apostle Peter, when his faith was new and weak, returned to his trade of fishing when he did not know what else to do after Jesus' resurrection. John 21:1-19. His trade was his security blanket. It's what he knew and found comfort in. When we are weak, we may find comfort in old ways. We may return to the sinful life we were saved from. We may turn again to worldly ways. Familiar ways. Things that used to give us satisfaction may again seem appealing when we feel that the Lord is not there assisting us or bailing us out of our dilemmas. As a security blanket comforts a child until he matures, so may our long trusted ways secure us till Christ gives us new life. Even Linus in Charlie Brown's Christmas drops his blanket as he quotes scripture about the birth of Christ. As that child may encounter scary situations and run to the supposed safety of his blanket, so may we return to what used to satisfy us before Jesus gave us true relief. Not trusting Him during fearful times may tempt us to temporarily cast Him aside to run back to an earlier sin or to seek a familiar feeling or to turn to a worldly practice that seemed easier and did not require the effort of trusting the unseen God. Think about what used to be comforting and easy for you before you were saved. Investment savings. Acquisition of property or possessions. Certain friends or family. A particular job or sport or pastime. A hobby.

None of these are sinful or necessarily inappropriate but if they provide security when Jesus and His love are higher and better than why do we waste our time? Following Christ will be more than sufficient and will surely allow for most of these same enjoyments but in Him they will be prioritized into their proper order behind Him. Matthew 6:33. Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6-8. We may even find ourselves returning to some favorite sin. 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 10:13. If Jesus is now everything to us, need we still return to those things to ease our minds? Bartimaeus placed all his faith and trust in Jesus. May we do the same. Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7. May we trust our Savior and follow Him with integrity. May we find in Him, peace, safety and security. May He hear our cries, stop in His tracks and call us to Himself saying, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" Surely He is all we need.