

[00:00:00] *hope: Welcome to the Hope Church Glasgow Sunday podcast. We pray you encounter God's love afresh today. Find out more about us@hopechurchglasgow.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram. Now, please enjoy this week's podcast.

[00:00:18] Jan: Today we're going to be looking at the story of a blind man in the Bible. So what I want you to do, because we want to think about, like, how do we get into the story?

So we're just going to have, like, a little practice of what that's like. So I would like for you, please, all to close your eyes, if that's okay, and keep them closed. And then I'm just going to ask you a few questions. And when I ask some questions, and if you want to respond with your answer, then I'll just pick you out because I know most of your names. So I'll just say your name and then you can shout out your answer. So keep your eyes closed. And I just want you to imagine for a moment that actually you were blind and you couldn't see.

So imagine you can't see. And imagine what your day, from the moment that you wake up would be like.

What would be some of the first things that you do in the morning that would become difficult?

You can pop your hand out if you want to answer.

Josiah.

It'll be dark. Yep. Lisa, hard to get out of bed yet. You wouldn't know where to put your feet. Yep. Evelyn, hard to brush your teeth. Yeah. You wouldn't know even. Well, where's your toothbrush? And where'd you put the toothpaste? Europe.

Saffron.

Hard to get breakfast. Yeah. I think, you know, pouring milk into a bowl. Definitely. Challenging. Anyone else? Any of the adults?

Simon, where your alarm is? Yes. Turning it off. Definitely. Definitely difficult. Okay, and what tasks at home do you think would become difficult?

Cooking. Yep.

Nappy? Changing. Yes.

Josiah, Just walking. Yep. And what about going to school or to work? If you couldn't see, what would that mean for your day?

Reading would be tricky. Yep. You have to learn Braille, wouldn't you? Anyone else? Any other adults?

Yes. Getting to work would be difficult.

Crossing the road? Yep. Definitely. And what about after school or after work? What is it that you do now that you actually wouldn't be able to do if you couldn't see?

[00:02:44] Speaker C: Look.

[00:02:46] Jan: Sorry.

Driving. Yep.

Like, after school activities. Does anybody, like, play football or. Elisa.

Watching your tablet? Yeah, that's not going to be possible.

Definitely. That would be very difficult.

Okay, so what we're going to do is we're Going to. Well done, everyone. So I just want you, now that you've had a think about what it's like not to be able to see, I just want you to put yourself in the story as we read it this morning. And then your kids, you're going to have something to do while as adults we unpack it a little bit and you can still listen, too. So I'm just going to read the story. This is from Mark 10.

So I just want you to think about what would it have been like for this blind Bartimaeus we're looking at this morning. So this is Mark 10, verse 46 says. Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town and a large crowd followed him, that was quite common. Lots of people follow Jesus. And a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road.

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me. Be quiet. Many of the people yelled at him, but he only shouted louder, son of David, have mercy on me.

When Jesus heard him, he stopped and he said, tell him to come here. So they called the blind man and they said, cheer up, cheer up. They said to him, come on, he's calling you. So Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and he came to Jesus. What do you want me to do for you? Jesus asked the man, Blind Bartimaeus, my rabbi, the blind man said, I want to see.

And Jesus said to him, go. And in other, other versions it says, go receive your sight, for your faith has healed you instantly. The man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road. And the other version in Luke said that he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God too.

So what you kids are going to get to do if you want to, you can come and sit on the floor and I've got paper and pens and what I would like you to do. Because when blind Bartimaeus received his sight, he was immediately thankful. He started praising God. And so I would like you to think about some of the amazing things that God has done for you or some things that you're just thankful for in your life. That might be, you're thankful for your new baby sister. You might be thankful for chocolate, you might be thankful for the beach. I don't know what you're thankful for. You can think of something you're thankful for. And then I would love if you would draw a picture of the thing that you're thankful to God for. And then Once you've finished, well, you, you can stay on the carpet when you're finished, or you can do more than one picture. And then we would love to see at the end what you, you've drawn. So there'll be a chance for you to show us all and tell us what you're thankful for. Is that okay? So you can come and have a seat. I've got paper for you, plenty of paper, and there's felt tip pens here and there's also crayons. So come and maybe you could pass some paper out. Do you want to pass some round? Thank you so much.

And if you're a big kid and you wanted to get paper and draw a picture and not sit on the carpet, you're welcome to do that too. Okay, so we're going to dive into a bit more of this story just to see what we can learn from it. So actually, interestingly, Bartimaeus was the only person who is

mentioned by name in the Book of Mark.

So all the people, it's like, you know, this person was healed or this, this, you know, the wife of this or the son of them or this, whoever.

Never, never a name apart from Bartimaeus. And so I was like, oh, well, in that case, what does his name mean? Because it's, it's in there. Obviously it's important. And interestingly so. Bar means son and timaeus actually means honored or valued one. But obviously if you're blind, you're an outcast. So I'm pretty sure sitting, begging for money, obviously the only way that he could eat and, and live. I'm pretty sure that he didn't actually feel honored or valued at all. And yet that is what his name means.

And then when, you know, when Jesus, he hears that he's coming. So obviously we don't know. We don't know how Bartimaeus knew about Jesus, but he. If you're sitting at, you know, I'm guessing it's at the gate on the exit to town because they're on the way out of town.

He must have heard stories. He's heard stories of people talking about Jesus. He's heard about him. Word has spread about Jesus. He's listened and pretty sure his hearing would have been like, super sensitive.

And he obviously cries out. So the crying out to Jesus and shouting, son of David. He really is recognizing and believing who Jesus is at that moment.

And then therefore knowing what he was capable of.

And he doesn't give up. That's the thing I love. He just, he keeps shouting. He doesn't let the fact that the crowd are telling him to be quiet to stop him.

And we don't know how many times they shushed him. I mean, that's just, that's just, that's what we've got is written. But how often did he shout and how many times did they shush him? And then he threw off his cloak. Now that's a really big deal. You may know this already, I might. I might just be reminding you. But thrown off his cloak was a big deal for a number of reasons which we don't always understand because we are not from that time and era. But actually. So the first of all, the cloak would have been used by him as like a blanket.

So that would mean his thing to keep him warm at night. So that would have been kind of his protecting him against the cold. So it was a means of protection. It was the way that he got money by begging. So typically they would have spread their cloak on their lap. And it meant that if people threw like coins or whatever into the cloak, then it was easy for him to gather that up because it wasn't then on the ground all around him and he couldn't find it. So cloak was on his lap so people could drop money into it and he could collect it easily. And then also the cloak was so important that in Exodus 22, it was actually forbidden to keep someone's cloak as security on a loan.

There you go. Bet you didn't know that one. Well, maybe you did. But I was like, wow, that's actually really interesting. It's really valuable. So much so that you have to give it back to someone if you take it as security loan, you actually have to return their cloak to them. So throwing off his cloak was actually basically saying, I'm not going to need this anymore. One, I'm not going to need it to keep me warm and provide for me. I'm not going to need it to beg and make a living. I'm not going to need it to be my security and my protection any longer. So he throws it off actually, and has such faith to be like, no, none of that. That's now my old life. I don't need it. I'm any. Because of course he could have picked it up and taken it with him, but actually he was like, no, I'm leaving that behind because I am actually going to go now and meet with

Jesus. And so Jesus, obviously, what do you want me to do for you? I love that Jesus asked that and I try to do that too. And I meet people because, you know, you don't know what they're going to see.

And for Bartimaeus, being blind was all that he knew. I mean, we don't know how long he'd been blind. It doesn't say. He was blind from birth. So, you know, maybe I don't know how old he was when he became blind, but actually, by saying, I want to see, actually, he was basically giving up being. He's not going to be a beggar any longer. His life was going to change dramatically. And what he actually experienced was not just an eye miracle, but he actually experienced a miracle on the inside. Because here's this guy who's an outcast. He just sits there, he begs. He's not, you know, he's not really got much of a life other than doing that. And what you see then is he follows Jesus then from that moment on. And so there's a shift in the inside where he's like, actually, I'm not an outcast anymore. I'm in. I'm included. And I can follow him and be with all these other people. And so he joins them. He feels accepted. So it's actually not just an eye miracle, but an inside miracle, which is. Which is phenomenal. And we don't hear what happens next for him.

But I don't know, did he fall? It doesn't say that. He only followed him down the road and then he went home.

But I like to think that he. That was it. That was the start of unfollowing Jesus. And he was with him and saw more miracles and heard more teaching. And so we don't know what happened next. But the fact that he's named, I mean, scholars and different Bible professionals, they think then that because he was named, it's likely that actually he was known in the area like Christian community. And the fact that his name was able to be shared is because actually he was. He was known to people. So I like to think that he. That was it. He was. Then, you know, who knows? Was he part of the 120 in the upper room? We don't know. But actually, he didn't just receive his sight that day. He actually received a whole lot more.

And so there's a few things I just want to pull out that we can learn from this story from Bartimaeus, really, and also from Jesus. And so I just want you to ask yourself the question, well, like, what about me or what about us? As I just read through these points, I'm just going to ask you that. So Bartimaeus try not to be distracted by some of the pictures which are looking great. Oh, my goodness, so many artists here. Looks great. I'm excited to hear what you're thankful for.

This could be interesting. So Bartimaeus, he recognized who Jesus was.

And I guess that question I would like to ask us, like, do we. Do we always recognize who Jesus actually is in our lives? And he didn't give up.

He, you know, we don't, as I said, we don't know how long he'd been blind. But what about us? I feel like sometimes we're quite. We're quite quick to give up. And he didn't. And he cried out in desperation and, and hope, actually. And he saw with eyes of faith. What about us?

He didn't worry about what others thought about him or let them try to silence him.

What about us?

He got rid of anything that could hold him back by throwing off his cloak.

And then trusted God for his protection and to provide for him.

And then when Jesus asked him what he could do for him, he was honest about his need.

What about us and Jesus? The thing that's amazing about Jesus is that he notices people that others pass by.

What about us?

And then he was thankful for what Jesus had done for him and praised God. And actually his praise of Jesus and his thanks impacted the people around him, so that they praised too.

What about us, actually? Are we thanking and praising him? And is that impacting the people around us?

So I, I was going to tell you a story, but we're not going to do that.

But I know someone who was blind, so if you ever want to hear me tell you the story about my friend who was blind, who got healed, come and chat to me. We're not going to do that this morning, but. What, what? I.

I just want to tell you a quick, quick story. We're going to do a couple of things. How are you guys getting on? Is anyone ready to show their picture?

Hi. Are you. Anybody ready to show me their picture?

[00:14:21] Speaker C: Yeah.

[00:14:21] Jan: Okay, let's do that then. So we can thank God for the thing you're thankful for. And then we're going to take some time to pray together in a moment. Is anyone else ready?

You want to come up? You show us. Great.

So you want to tell us what your picture is and then what you're thankful for?

[00:14:40] Speaker C: So I wrote, I'm thankful for everything is edible. So I put down donuts, chickens that don't want to be eaten, water, and Eden, which isn't edible, and ice cream.

[00:14:54] Jan: Brilliant. Well, amazing. Thank you, God for food. Incredible.

Anyone else?

Yeah,

[00:15:04] Speaker C: I put birthdays and Josiah.

[00:15:08] Jan: Wow, that's lovely. I'll just pass this to you. Do you want to take. You are able to hold your picture up and show us all. That's beautiful.

[00:15:14] Speaker C: Yes.

[00:15:15] Jan: Wow. Look, you've got your big art book. My goodness.

What's brilliant? You want me to hold it and then you can tell us what it is? Is that okay?

[00:15:25] Speaker C: And thank you for birds.

[00:15:29] Jan: Oh, wow.

[00:15:31] Speaker C: I tried to draw to brilliant.

[00:15:35] Jan: That's so good.

Amazing.

Wow. And is that your favorite bird?

Yes, yes. Brilliant. Wow. Okay, well, we'll take a moment to thank God for touchings in a wee moment.

[00:15:46] *hope: Right.

[00:15:46] Jan: Let me give you that back. Is anyone else finished?

What about you? Yours is quite interesting.

Samuel.

I think everyone should see this because this is what was making me laugh. Everyone's thankful for it. It is. Everyone is thankful. Do you want to hold it up and let us see? I feel like everyone's gonna know what you're thankful for straight away. Hold up high, hold up high. Nice and high.

That is a great.

What a great picture.

Brilliant.

Yep.

Great.

Okay, so Jesus, we just wanna. Has anyone else got one that's ready? We've got some more water, food, chicken.

Okay, so I'm just going to pray. Jesus, first of all, Jesus, want to say thank you for each and every one of the kids in our family. I thank you for how unique they all are and how you made them. God, we want to thank you for food.

We thank you for family. We thank you for birds and toucans especially. And we thank you for toilet roll. And we thank you for ice cream and for new babies. And we thank you for birthdays and God, we want to praise you that you love to give us good gifts. And we thank you for who you are to us. Amen.

Amen. So what I want us to do, I went to Light and Life on Friday night and on my way there, God just gave me a couple of words for pain in people's bodies. And so I think maybe, Ann, you've got some too. But we're just going to take a few moments just to pray together in groups. So I'm going to have you get into groups of two or three. The thing that really struck me about

the blind Bartimaeus story is that actually he didn't give up. And we have people in our church family who've got health conditions that they've been battling for years. Many of you will know them, but I can just remind you of a few. We have our Beautiful Avril, who's here with us today. We've got Sarah Cockrell, we have Beth, we have Hazel. Yes.

Plus you guys might have health needs yourself and Andrew and lots of different ones of you. So if, if you're in a group with someone who themselves needs healing because they're responding to a word or you just, God just lays it on your heart to pray for someone who's dear to you. Actually my I've just been started afresh actually there's so like, you know, this guy didn't give up blind. Bartimaeus did not quit and give up.

And actually that's my encouragement to us. Let us have one be ones who have eyes of faith and believe God for the miraculous, that Jesus died on a cross and dealt with sin, sickness and death. And actually we can see people made well. So I, when I was on my way into town, I felt God highlight to me right elbow. So if that's you get, get some prayer in your group. A throat problem, a neck injury and I just encourage you. I had the name David and thought, okay, it didn't meet a David on Friday night. Then I was in the gym yesterday and this guy started to chat to me and asked me my name and I said what my name was and asked him his name and he was like, I'm called David. I was like, oh, David. Well, let me just show you my phone.

I was like, I am, you know, I've written this down, it might freak you out. Turned out that he believed in Jesus. He wasn't in church and he'd had a bad accident when he was 16, so I was able to pray for his back. So we'll wait to hear what happens next. So just encourage you. God loves to share things because he wants people made well.

[00:19:06] *hope: Thank you for listening to this podcast from Hope Church Glasgow. There are loads more to listen to wherever you normally find your podcasts or from our website hopechurchglasgow.org if you'd like to know more about us. We are on Facebook and Instagram. Just search for Hope Church Glasgow. Have a hopeful day.