



# HE CRIED THE MORE

## HOLD YOUR PEACE!

In the gospel of Mark chapter 10 beginning with the 46<sup>th</sup> verse it says,

**“And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho, with his disciples and a great number of people with them, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.” Mark 10: 46**

The name Bartimaeus gives us insight into this story, it's Hebrew, Bar means the son of and Timaeus means a sinful man. What his name literally meant was the son of a sinful man. He sat by the highway side begging but

**“...when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth he began to cry out and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me, and many charged him that he should hold his peace!” Mark 10: 47-48**

You see, religious folk like to do that, they say things like, “why do you get so excited” or “just be quiet” and “I don't know about all that emotional stuff, it just isn't my personality.” If that's you, then you're the “*they*” the bible was talking about, “*they*” told Bartimaeus, “Shut up, be quiet, we don't do it that way around here!” Yes,

**“...many charged him that he should hold his peace but he cried the more a great deal, Jesus thou son of David, have mercy upon me!” Mark 10: 48**

and the Bible says in verse 49 that,

**“...Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called.” Mark 10: 49**

## ROMAN RULE

The Bible says that they were leaving out of the city of Jericho. In the Old Testament there was a great leader of the Hebrew people named Joshua who had led Israel after Moses had died. After Joshua became leader he led Israel to this same city. There, the Bible tells us that a great miracle would take place for Joshua and God's people: the walls of Jericho would come tumbling down. Joshua was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so some 2500

years later we pick up the story here in the gospel of St. Mark chapter 10. I want to take you back if I can to that time so we can paint a picture if the Holy Spirit will allow us because many times when we read the Bible stories we don't really understand what it is that were reading because time and distance have a tendency to take us away from the reality of what really happened.

By the time Jesus Christ showed up on the face of earth, religion had reared its ugly head. The Roman government was in power: a one-world system. Basically, all the earth of that day was ruled by the Roman government, at least that region of the world was. Wherever Rome stretched her tent there was oppression; there was no freedom; there was no joy; there was no life for the people of that day. And in this climate there was Judaism (religion), the temple of Solomon had been destroyed and had been rebuilt so that now the temple of Herod stood in Jerusalem. It had been 400 years since the people of God had heard from a prophet of God and they had become used to religion, to ritual, to form. Oh yes, they went to the temple but they served God out of religious worship and not out of a relationship with him. Religion became the expression of the day. They would offer burnt offerings unto God, millions of lambs would be slain in a religious exercise, trying to appease a God that they did not know, that they only could hear of written on old parchment. God had become some distant concept that had no reality in their lives. The times were brutal. They were times when you were either a rich person or a poor person or a slave and there was no in between, either rich or poor.

## **THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS**

And into this climate arises one who we now know was the Son of God, he was unlike any preacher that they had ever seen before. The Bible tells us that when Jesus began to speak that the crowds, literally, would be held enraptured as this one from Galilee would utter words that had been hidden from the foundation of the world. There were rumors that he had fed five thousand with just five loaves and two fishes. There were rumors that he actually walked on water! Wherever he would go crowds would hail him as a prophet, as the new king, as another David, as another Solomon. They had not seen such power of God as flowed from him. When Jesus would come into a city the stores would close, the houses would empty, the shops would empty and people would lay down whatever they were doing and they would rush to where he was. And if you were to come to where he was, you couldn't even catch a glimpse of him because there were thousands upon thousands trying to get to him! Trying to get to him, trying to touch just the hem of his garment, trying to hear just one more word from him, Jesus, the Son of God!

This Jesus, no one ever spoke like him, miracles flowed from his body. The bible tells us that wherever he went he would heal all who were oppressed of the devil. Praise God! There were times when he would be speaking in church (synagogue) and demons would cry out of people, people who had bondages in their lives, in church! Hello. I know that doesn't sit well with the religious folk but yes, people have problems in church. Aren't you glad that you have a God that doesn't judge you? People might judge you, religion might judge you but Jesus Christ will never judge you, he came to set you free (Jn.3: 17).  
Hallelujah!

## RELIGION KILLS

It was the religious establishment that killed Jesus Christ. I'll say it again, it was not the church, (the people of God), that killed Jesus Christ: it was the religious establishment that killed Jesus Christ. I once did a radio interview in Prince Albert, Canada and I was asked,

*"So you're coming to preach the gospel. What are you going to tell all those people, especially the First Nations people who were put into residential schools (schools where native children were forcibly taken from their homes and placed there for education and re-culturization) and oppressed by the Christians."*

I said,

*"Well, I'm going to tell them that they are in good company."*

First of all what men call Christianity and what Christianity really is is not one in the same thing. That is the problem with the church today and has always been the problem: men get into positions of power, they become the clergy, they form systems and rules and regulations and rituals and they create denominations and structures and on and on and on it goes. They make a gap between themselves and the people and between the people and God. And what they call God is not God. So he asked me,

*"What are you going to tell them when it was the Christians that hurt them?"*

I said,

*"Sir, it wasn't Christianity as I know it that hurt them: as a matter of fact, it was the religious establishment that killed Jesus so they stand in good stead with Jesus. So the Jesus I come to preach is the same Jesus that was put on the cross by religion. So no matter what they that call themselves "Christianity" have come and done to you: lay that down, let it go and get into a relationship with God almighty, and get to know the son of the living God. Religion will kill you."*

## TOLERANCE/HOLD YOUR PEACE!

Governments love religion. They'll invite "Father So and So" to their meetings and "Bro. Big" and they'll ask them their opinions and use them to control the people. They'll pass laws so these guys can have their churches and not be hassled by the government. But just let some people get full with the Holy Ghost and begin to stand up and tell the truth and the government comes down on them. That ought to be a good key to tell you which one is right and which one is wrong. Which one is Christianity and which one is religion.

On that same trip to Canada, I was watching one of their religious channels and I couldn't believe it! On the same channel one person comes on and preaches Jesus and the next two hours I have to listen to some guy come on and tell me that Allah is God. Mohammad didn't save me, Jesus did. They've been taught by government for many years in that part of the world that they must be tolerant of all religions. Well, you know, I'm tolerant of everybody, I love everybody but when you try and tell me that Mohammed is equal to Jesus your going

to end up with a debate on your hands. I can take you around the world and show you all the graves of all other men who have declared themselves to be God. But what if we go on a little trip to Jerusalem? I challenge you to show me where the grave of Jesus Christ is. You won't find it because he's not there. The bible says that he lay in that tomb for three days but on the third day he rose again with my salvation and yours! So don't try to tell me that some other religious leader and Jesus are equal. There's only one savior, there's only one God, there's only one Messiah and there's only one soon coming king and his name is JESUS CHRIST, the son of the living God, the king of kings and the Lord of Lords. **It's time for us to break out of the four walls of our properness!** Its time for us as the church of Jesus Christ to be proud of our savior for they stretched him far and wide and he hung there for you and he hung there for me and he was not ashamed to die for you and me. So what's our problem?

## WAKE UP

God help us! Many of us have been asleep in this hour. I don't know if you know what's been going on around the world but there's an ideological war taking place right now. The governments of this world are trying to push us all together just like the book of Revelation said that they would. It said that there'd be one religion, that there'd be one world. But this is the hour in which the Bible proclaims that,

**"...In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts:2:17**

I don't know about you but I'm not making plans to be side by side along a bunch of dead Gods! Elijah said, "Let the God that be God answer by fire!" Hallelujah! Mohammed never set a crack addict free: he never set a drug addict free: he never put a marriage back together: he never did anything for you. But I know one who can come into your life and who can change you in a moment, in an instant! He can take you from having that dark cloud over your head and give a thousand sunrises instead if you'll just ask him!

## A TYPE OF US ALL

Jesus is leaving Jericho and Bartimaeus is sitting on the side of the road begging, Bartimaeus, who was the son of a sinful man. You see, Bartimaeus is a type of all of us. We were all born to a man named Adam, all of us. David said I was altogether shapen in iniquity.

**Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51: 5**

You and I we didn't have a chance from the moment we were conceived, we were conceived in sin and we were doomed to a sinner's hell...but God. But God! But God so loved the world! The world likes to tell you that you have this big ole, bad, mean God who is just waiting for you to mess up so he can squash you at any moment. That's not the God that I know: God so loved the world!

The bible tells us that there is a friend who sticketh closer than a brother. When all others forsake you, even those who have loved you for so long but they got so tired of you messing up that even they walked away from you, there's one who will never turn his back on you! David said if I make my bed in hell, there you are. Oh, where could I go but to the Lord? Have you ever been there in the midnight of your life, when you lay your head on your pillow at night and you toss and you turn and there is no peace for your soul? Have you ever been there? When all others have turned their back on you and everyone else has forsaken you and you deserve to have had them turn their back on you: have you ever been there? I've been there, when even I looked at myself in the mirror and said, "I just want to die." But thank God, the old song says, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, ***I was blind but now I see.*** It was grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed." Praise God! "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

### **JESUS WILL STAND STILL**

If you've been stirred and you need a living God in your heart and not a dead religion or if it's been a long time since you've felt that river flowing in your heart, just ask him right now to fill you, to heal you. Whatever you need! We are all equal in the sight of God, there is no one any better than anyone else and if he stood still for blind Bartimaeus, (the son of a sinful man), he will stand still for you right now if you will just do what Bartimaeus did and ***cry out*** to him for mercy.

Keep looking up,

*Marty Martinez*

