

## **Are You Screaming for Jesus' Attention?**

Every once, in a while, I got ornery as a father. Coming to the church building one day the whole family was in the car, and Nathan, who was six years old at the time, was sitting in the middle of the back seat between his two older brothers. He was upset about something, and he kept pursuing his complaint to his mother to the place that we just did not want to hear what he had to say anymore. His mother and the rest of us were ignoring him, and he continued to say, "Mommy" and tap her on the shoulder. In my state of being ornery, I turned up the radio a little louder. He began to yell louder, so I turned up the radio even louder. In fact, I turned it up very loud. Nathan decided to scream even louder saying, "Mommy. Hello. Are you there?" Well, we didn't help his attitude any because we were all laughing at him. He was determined to get his mother's attention. What he did not know was that he had it all the time, but we just pretended to ignore it.

In Mark 10 Jesus was leaving the city of Jericho. There were a lot of people following Him. Sitting by the roadside was someone who needed Jesus. His name was Bartimaeus. He was blind, poor and possibly homeless. He needed some attention, and he had nothing to lose if he screamed for help, because the people going in and out of Jericho didn't seem to care about him.

Do you know the feeling? Was there a time in your life when you felt that way? The world did not seem to help you or even care about your problems. You kept screaming, but no one answered. You thought that you might just as well die, and forget the pain.

Among the whole crowd Jesus could hear Bartimaeus. Some may wonder how in spite of the noisy crowd. Well, His ears were and still are tuned to the cries of His children. Just like a mother can hear their baby crying in the church nursery. Someone said, "Cheer up! Get on your feet! He is calling you!"

Jesus stopped, stood still and paid attention to Bartimaeus as though he was the only person around. This is how I believe God answers my prayers and your prayers. When Bartimaeus faced Jesus, Jesus said, "What do you want? Name your mercy." Inside Jesus was saying, "I already know what you want. I just want to hear it from you." Jesus already knows what hurts you. Like a parent, He wants to hear His children ask for His help. Do you know what it is that you want from God? If I asked you could you tell me? Can you put it in words to God right now?

What would have happened to Bartimaeus if he had remained by the road and not screamed out? Nothing! Do you think it will be any different for you?

"Cheer up! Get on your feet! He is calling you!"

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