

Have the faith of a blind man!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- healing of the blind was a sign that Jesus had come and was preaching the gospel
- John was in prison, sent disciples to Jesus and asked if He was the Expected One
 - Jesus' answer: "Go and report to John what you hear and see: **the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT** and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the **POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM**" (Matt. 11:4-5, quoting from the OT Scriptures).
- What can we learn about faith from the blind?

➤ Believe in Jesus and appeal to Him for mercy! – faith of a blind man

- **Matt. 9:27-29** two blind men following Jesus, appealed to Jesus for mercy, healed according to their faith
- - believe:
 - that **He can do all the things He promised** while you are upon the **earth**, and **save you** in the end.
- - therefore **appeal to Him** for mercy
 - appeal **through obedience** to His commands – **rf - Heb. 5:9** source of eternal salvation to those who obey
 - **1 Pet. 3:21** appeal, obedience, baptism – **Noah, ark, water** – **appeal to God when we obey**
 - **appeal process court of law, must follow the process as prescribed** – **God's process is baptism**

➤ Believe / Obey / Respond Immediately / Ask / Glorify God – faith of Bartimaeus, a blind man

- **Mk. 10:46-52** Bartimaeus, blind man, Jericho – **believed in Jesus and appealed** for mercy (above)
- - **Bartimaeus sought Jesus rather than please crowd:** crowd pressured him to be quiet
 - **peer pressure:** we can overcome the crowd and obey God
 - **1 Cor. 10:13** peer pressure not new, God not allow to be too strong, way of escape
 - - **Rom. 8:28, 37** be confident can overcome
 - - **1 Jn. 2:15-17** don't love the world, sin, fitting in through sinful means
 - - **Col. 3:1-4** stay focused spiritually, stay focused on heaven
- - **Bartimaeus immediately responded to Jesus' call:** threw off cloak (most valuable possession), jumped up, went to Jesus
 - **Have you thrown off your cloak?**
 - **Matt. 16:24-26** deny self, take up cross, lose life, not forfeit soul,
 - **Have you jumped up, or are you procrastinating?**
- - **Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted, and asked Jesus**
 - **prayer: specific, faith, not doubt – confident, peaceful**
 - **Lk. 11:5-10** persistent, keep seeking and asking and knocking
 - **Lk. 18:1-5** **parable on persistent prayer, vs. 1 pray and not lose heart – squeaky wheel**
 - - **Ja. 1:5-8** pray, faith, not doubting – God will perform His will in your life, keep His promises
 - - **Phil. 4:4-7** rejoice, not anxious but pray, peace guard heart and mind – **relate to above**
- - **Bartimaeus glorified God – let his light shine, causing other people to glorify God**
 - **Lk. 18:43** faith glorifies God, shine light, causing others people to glorify God
 - **evangelism, showing others the way to God, example – not afraid to tell your story**

- **Believe the simple gospel message – reject the doctrines of men! – like a blind man, faith**
 - **Jn. 9:1, 6-11** Jesus made clay with spit and put on man's eyes, man washed, could see – faith!!!!!!!!, man confessed openly what Jesus had done
 - **faith to allow a man to anoint your eyes with clay made of spit, then to wash as He commanded you**
 - **e.g., baptism**
- - **Jn. 9:24-34** healed man believed the truth that dumbfounded men who embraced false religious doctrines
 - **faith, believe the simple truth that most people reject**
 - **be one of the few who walk on the narrow road and enter through the small gate** that leads to life (Matt. 7:13-14)
 - **faith to share the truth with others, without fear of the cost**
- - **Jn. 9:17, 26-27, 30** Jesus opened his eyes, but the man still had to do something

- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **there is only one way to be healed of spiritual blindness today – be a faithful Christian**
 - **2 Pet. 1:9** lack qualities (vs. 5-8) blind and shortsighted
- - **inv.:** be healed of your spiritual blindness today - leave with your sight