

35 As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. **36** Now hearing a crowd going by, he *began* to inquire what this was. **37** They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. **38** And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" **39** Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" **40** And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, **41** "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, *I want* to regain my sight!" **42** And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." **43** Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.

What was Bartimaeus doing when Jesus came by that ensured Jesus would do something for him?

1. He was actively doing something. Vs. 35 - He was not just sitting at home expecting someone to do something for him.
 - a. He was doing what he could do – he was sitting and begging. That was all he could do, not much but he did it.
 - b. He engaged in his surroundings – he was in the best place to be begging, not just sitting outside his house where it was convenient.
2. He noticed that something was different happening. – he was attentive – vs. 36
 - a. He was curious enough to ask what was going on – he was aware of what was around him so he knew when Jesus showed up. Are you so unaware of what is going on around you that if Jesus showed up, you would miss him?
 - b. He wanted to be involved in his environment – he was not going to be pushed aside just because of his disability.
 - c. He noticed when things changed – he had been there enough to know when something was different. He had not give up.
3. He noticed something different and called out – vs. 36-38
 - a. He did not want to just sit there and wait for someone to come to him - he was looking for something to change, not just stuck in his problem and playing the victim.
 - b. He was not satisfied to just sit and let "life happen" – he was pro-active to change his condition. He knew it was up to him to do something not just wait on someone else to do it for him.

4. He was persistent, and continued to make a commotion – vs. 39
 - a. He became even louder when they tried to shut him up – he was not going to be silenced. He knew this was his chance for change.
 - b. He knew what needed to be done – he knew this was the one who could change his life!
 - c. He did what had to be done even when it was not popular – he did not give up when challenged or when things became unpopular or unpleasant.
5. Jesus then asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” – vs. 39
 - a. An interesting question – Jesus knew the answer already, but needed this man to agree that he needed Jesus.
 - b. He was not cynical about the question – It was Jesus’ way to test the man’s faith.
6. He already knew what he wanted and believed that Jesus could do that – vs. 41
 - a. He had only one desire from Jesus – this man knew that his only hope was to have Jesus heal him. He had heard about Jesus healing others.
 - b. He was clear about his request – He only asked for healing from blindness, not “oh by the way, can you make me rich as well?”
7. Jesus healed him because of his faith – vs. 42
 - a. He had the faith that this Jesus could heal him – do we ask for things but really do not believe that God will give them to us?
 - b. He spoke his request believing that Jesus could and would heal him – he was determined that Jesus could and would heal him.
8. What do you want Jesus to do for you today?
 - a. Do you know what you want?
 - b. Are you doing what it takes to get it?
 - c. Are you prepared for the outcome?