

Children and family talk for 24th October 2021

Good morning, and thank you for joining me today as we read and learn more from the bible and praise God together. Let's start with a few verses from Psalm 126

"When the Lord brought back exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, "What amazing things the Lord has done for them." Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!"

When have you been 'filled with joy'? Did it feel real or unreal? Today we are going to read about a man who had amazing things done to him and we'll see how he reacted.

Today's bible story is from Mark chapter 10 verses 46 to 52.

'Then as they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. 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 said, "Tell him to come here."

So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said, "Come on, he's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"My rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you," Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

Now let's sing; **Jesus Love Is Very Wonderful**

Jesus' love is very wonderful
Jesus' Love is very wonderful
Jesus' love is very wonderful
Oh, wonderful Love!

So high you can't get over it
So low you can't get under it

So wide you can't get round it,
Oh, wonderful love!

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Let's talk about our bible story:

How did Bartimaeus react to meeting Jesus?

I think he realised this might be his only chance of ever being able to see with his eyes. He had heard about Jesus and the miracles he had performed. Bartimaeus wasn't about to let this chance escape and he yells out loudly "Jesus help me!" or words to that effect.

Of course, the others around tried to shut him up, yelling back at him to be quiet. But Bartimaeus persists, no one is going to take this chance away, he believes Jesus can help him and he yells for all he's worth. And Jesus hears him. And Jesus asks him what he wants him to do. It might seem a strange question, but Jesus wants Bartimaeus to say the words to show the people around his great faith. And this time words are all it takes. Jesus says to Bartimaeus, "Go, your faith has healed you".

What joy Bartimaeus must have felt when that light flooded through and he could see again. So what does he do? Does he rush off to tell his friends and family – no, he follows Jesus down the road. He has become one of Jesus' many followers.

I hope you too can feel joy and follow Jesus. Without Jesus in our lives, we are in the dark, searching around without a torch, but Jesus shines a light of love that we can follow.

Let's talk to our Lord Jesus now:

Dear friend and saviour Lord Jesus,

Thankyou for the light and love you shine for us to follow,

Help us too to be like torches in your world, shining out with your love for all to see

Amen.

And we say the grace together:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (hold hands out as if expecting a present)

The Love of God (Cross hands over heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all, now and evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together for Amen)

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