

CARPE DIEM, SEIZE THE DAY

1. **Carpe diem** is a phrase from a Latin poem by Horace that has popularly been translated as "seize the day".

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

2. In Jesus' day, people believed that a person's blindness or disease was caused by sin—either his own or his parents'.

- John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

- John 9:2 (NLT) "Teacher," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it a result of his own sins or those of his parents?"

3. Jesus loves and values everyone, no one is left out.

a. He sees our impairments not as an indication of sin in our lives, but as a chance for His Father's power to be revealed

- John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4. Jesus is saying that whatever caused his blindness was irrelevant.

a. what was important is that the power of God was going to be made manifest
No matter what caused the blindness

5. Because it was right before the Passover, many people were walking through Jericho to Jerusalem.

a. Bartimaeus heard it was Jesus who was causing all the commotion

Mark 10:47 And 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.

6. Bartimaeus had heard of a man from Nazareth named Jesus, who was known for healing the blind and performing many other miracles.

a. he didn't expect to have the opportunity to ever meet Him in person

Mark 10:48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

5. Understand, there is always going to be someone who will try to talk you out of your miracle.

a. they will use reason, doubts, comparisons, excuses or even tell you that if God wanted you healed, he would have done it by now

6. But Bartimaeus cried out in hope, even though others in the crowd tried to keep him quiet.

a. the more he cried out the more his faith grew

b. the more they told him to shut up, the more his determination grew

Mark 10:49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

7. This response has always fascinated me. Instead of Jesus going to the blind man in the midst of this crowd, he stops and has the blind man come to Him.

a. is He teaching him to hear and recognize His voice so that once he does get his sight back, he can still follow Him because he knows His voice

8. Understand that Jesus' reply to this poor man's plea for mercy is important because it shows that He is willing to listen to our cries for help, no matter what condition we're in.

Mark 10:50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

9. This is very symbolic because your garment represented what you were in life.

a. there were beggars garments, lepers garments and so on

10. So here is saying that he is ready to walk away from what has kept him impaired and that he was willing to embrace whatever Jesus had to offer.
11. When you are given a God given opportunity, are you willing to cast off what is familiar to you to embrace the new?
12. Bartimaeus seized the day. It started out as every other day:
 - a. someone led him to the spot where he would sit and beg, as always
 - b. his only hope was getting a few extra coins because more people were in town for the Passover
 - c. then he hears a crowd coming, whispers of Jesus fills the air
 - d. at that moment, he has a choice...cry out to God or sit in silence hoping that god would notice him
13. Sadly, when it comes to church and altar calls. Most people will sit in silence rather than cry out where everybody can notice you.
 - a. and so we forfeit our God given opportunities
14. An opportunity is a moment of God's favor when we have the choice of making a decision that could turn into unexpected blessings.

Mark 10:51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

15. Notice that Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**"
16. Jesus knew what he needed, but He wanted a specific request and an expression of true faith.
 - a. it makes me wonder how many times has Jesus asked you that very same question but His voice was drowned out by those around you feeding you their opinions
17. Like Bartimaeus, He wants you to tell Him what you need.

Mark 10:52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

18. In response to Bartimaeus's faith, Jesus healed his blindness.

19. But what did Bartimaeus do that shows he had faith to believe for healing?

#1. (vs 47) he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

a. he cried out

b. he used the name of Jesus

c. *Son of David* shows he understood it was a covenant right that he had

#2. (vs 48) he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

d. when opposition increased " he should hold his peace " he cried out a great deal more

e. opposition caused him to increase his shouts which drowned out their voices

f. **Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.** - shows he didn't change his confession despite being told to shut up

#3. (vs 49) And Jesus stood still, shows he didn't stop until he got Jesus attention

g. how did he get Jesus' attention...not by shouting, but by standing on the covenant (God's) Word by saying "Son of David"

#4. (vs 49) and commanded him to be called shows that Jesus was nowhere near Him if he had to be summoned to come to Him

h. that means there was a possibility that Jesus had already walked by but that didn't stop Bartimaeus

I. if we feel like he is not listening, we get discouraged and disappointed

j. if others told him Jesus heard him, that means he had to believe their report

#5. And he, casting away his garment - he was willing to cast away from what was familiar to him

k. when you don't, it shows you want control and you don't trust God

#6. rose - he had to make a stand for what he believed was about to happen

l. many church folks are not bold in their faith because if it doesn't turn out just so, they don't want to be embarrassed in front of others

#7. and came to Jesus - did you notice that Bartimaeus' continual petition finally got him into the presence of God

20. Then, upon regaining his eyesight, Bartimaeus began following Jesus.

21. We must choose to walk in faith, as Bartimaeus did. He could easily have believed that it was impossible either to be healed or to meet the Son of God.

22. See, God will create opportunities, divine moments of favor for us to fulfill His plan and purpose for our lives.

23. But, like Bartimaeus, we have a part to play. We have to seize the moment!

24. Realize that with every opportunity, He will also provide all that you will need to fulfill His plans and purposes for your lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

25. So, make a decision to :

a. follow the voice of the Lord

b. be persistent without giving up, even if others criticize you

26. Jesus' walk through Jericho was not just any opportunity for Bartimaeus—it was his only chance because it was the last time the Lord would walk that way to Jerusalem before His crucifixion.

27. For us as children of God, there are promising new roads to take every day.

28. But we have to decide:

a. do we dare believe the Lord

b. do we want to explore what He has to offer us

29. What opportunities has He laid upon your heart that requires you to stand up amongst the nay-sayers and walk by faith?

#0. Whatever it is, it's probably bigger than what you can imagine!

E N D