

**Sing beforehand:** Psalm 46:5

*5- "Be still and know, all you who bide Me,  
That I am God, and none beside Me.  
I am exalted, and My might  
Makes haughty nations flee in fright  
. In all the earth I am exalted;  
By Me your enemies are halted!"  
The LORD of hosts is on our side:  
With Jacob's God we safely hide.<sup>i</sup>*

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth<sup>ii</sup>. Beloved, grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>iii</sup>. By the powerful operation of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Psalm of praise 145:1, 5

*1-The LORD is just in all His will and way,  
And all His works His steadfast love portray.  
All men who seek His mercy find Him near;  
He satisfies all those who Him revere.  
He hears the cry of those who seek Him truly  
But shall destroy the wicked and unruly.  
My mouth to Him its praises shall deliver  
And all flesh bless His holy Name forever.<sup>iv</sup>*

Apostles Creed

*I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary:  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell:  
The third day he rose again from the dead:  
He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:  
I believe in the Holy Ghost:  
I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints:  
The forgiveness of sins:  
The resurrection of the body:  
And the life everlasting. Amen. <sup>v</sup>*

The Law

<sup>1</sup>And God spake all these words, saying,  
<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of bondage.  
<sup>3</sup>Thou shalt have no other gods before me.  
<sup>4</sup>Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any  
thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the  
water under the earth.  
<sup>5</sup>Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD  
thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the  
children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

<sup>6</sup>And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

<sup>9</sup>Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

<sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

<sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

<sup>12</sup>Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

<sup>13</sup>Thou shalt not kill.

<sup>14</sup>Thou shalt not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>Thou shalt not steal.

<sup>16</sup>Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

<sup>17</sup>Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. **Exodus 20:1-17 KJV**

Psalm 107:3

-3-Some, wand'ring in waste places,  
Found nowhere they could stay.  
God heard them and was gracious;  
He led them on their way.  
With thirst and hunger weak,  
They cried to God to save them  
From deserts dry and bleak.  
A place of rest He gave them.<sup>vi</sup>

Prayer

- Doxology:
- Worship:
- Confession:

Supplication (for pardon of sins):

- Thanksgiving:
- Intercession (for the need of the congregation, the church, authorities, sinful world and appeal to the promises of God)
- General supplication:
- Illumination of the Holy Spirit (necessary for the ministry of the Word):

Amen.

Psalm 86:2

2-Thou art good, Thy grace astounding,  
And in steadfast love abounding.  
When we call, O LORD, be nigh;  
Listen to my troubled cry.  
Thee I call, for Thou art near me;  
None among the gods will hear me

*Or is like Thee, LORD benign,  
And no works compare with Thine.<sup>vii</sup>*

Scripture reading : Mark 10<sup>viii</sup>  
Text : Mark 10:48

**<sup>48</sup>Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:48 KJV)**

Poor, yet rich.

A blind man stands by the roadside.

- But he is not just any blind man. In his blindness this man is also bitterly poor.
- He is poor in a different way to other people.
  - He is not poor because of his own failure.
  - He is also not less gifted so also that is not the reason for him having been moved aside in life.
- He could not see, so he could not work. For that reason he was without an income - a beggar.

We clearly read that the Lord's people treated this man differently to the way they treated regular people.

- His blindness means that they must shoulder him, because he cannot see to work, they have to care for him. This man is a burden to them.
- Hence they do not like him.

The love in the Lord that they are supposed to have for this man is so little that it evaporates.

- He must beg for his own sustenance, they do not provide for him.
- They are irritated by him.

But this man has a wealth within him, which provides him with more spiritual possessions than many of the people who surround him have.

One day he hears a large multitude passing him by.

- He asks one of the passers-by what the reason is for the large gathering of people.
- That person answers that they are following Jesus, that everyone is on their way to go and listen to His sermon.

This happens a couple of days before Jesus' death - just before the last triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the crucifixion.

By this time every Jew knew Jesus.

- This blind beggar also knew Him.
- Even though he could himself not physically follow Jesus, he certainly must have heard of Him from the passers-by.
- Perhaps he was even told of all the miracles Jesus had done, and the wondrous sermons He delivered.

Immediately this man starts calling after Jesus:

**"Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

The people who stood close by the beggar were all just like us.

- Equally unwilling to help.
- Immediately this beggar who does not know his place irritates them - Who on earth is he to call after Jesus in such a manner?

Hence, many people rebuked him and cattishly tried to silence him.

- So devoid of neighbourly love, they could not even comprehend how sinful their response was!

- It is a bad enough stain on this society that a beggar walks their streets, and to add insult to injury he does not even know his place!

But there is a change in the blind beggar.

He previously heard of this Jesus Christ, and heard how that He saves people.

- This blind man believes in this salvation!
- Therein his wealth resides!
- In the power of his faith!

He believes that the Lord Jesus came for also his own blindness.

- That is why he does not stop calling.
- When the people reprove him, he calls out even louder. He will be heard.

At once his circumstances are different!

- He no longer begs.
- He implores God for His grace.

He is patient.

- In spite of the people who would silence him, he keeps on repeating this urgent entreaty because he knows that his salvation lies in the Lord hearing his prayer.
- His cry is urgent.

This is not merely just another blind man.

- He is also not just one of the many people who lived there, and who moved through the same streets with Jesus.
- For the Lord has a name for him - the Lord knows him personally.
- For the Lord, he is a child of the covenant.

That is why the Bible explicitly states: He is *blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus!*

- The Lord knows him a long time.
- He even knows his family - He knows his father by name.

*Bartimaeus is one of God's elect.*

That is why his prayer is also answered.

Let us take a practical view of his circumstances: Bartimaeus is a Jew – as were all the other people around him.

- All of them on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.
- That is to say, everyone except Bartimaeus - because he could not go to Jerusalem, because he could not see the way.

Bartimaeus also had a need to celebrate Passover.

- He also had a need of communion with God.
- Which explains the tremendous need this man had to be delivered from his condition of blindness.

He had heard what the people spoke concerning Jesus.

- From what he heard it was evident to him that Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- With this Messiah salvation is possible!

He urgently calls to this Jesus. Luke 18 tells the same history:

<sup>38</sup>**And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. (Luke 18:38)**

Something striking is hidden within this man's words.

- Jesus means the LORD saves.
- The fact that he calls the Lord Jesus by name is already a confession that he believes that with God salvation is possible.

Thus the Holy Spirit works in his heart. That is why he calls unceasingly.

- All at once he has an enduring confidence.
- The mercy of the Lord will redeem him forever from this damnable state.
- Without the need to beg, he will henceforth also be able to live with dignity and with honour!

His cry is urgent, because all of a sudden he has something new to live for.

- He does not ask for more money, because he is interested in another wealth.
- He now asks something particular - he asks for the mercy of God.

How often do we realise our distress, but the wealth of our faith is wanting.

- Then we pray half-heartedly.
- We lose courage and stop praying.

The crowd tries to silence Bartimaeus.

- They form a wall around him - between him and his God.
- As if they wish to prevent the possibility of his salvation.
- But he continuously calls out his prayer – and his perseverance is rewarded when the Lord Jesus hears him.

What animated Bartimaeus?

- All at once it occurred to Bartimaeus that to direct one's prayers toward earthly things is to no avail.
- Money and physical provisions are quickly exhausted.
- Then he will have to resume his begging.

That is why he realises that he will have to start praying for something else. Hence the new prayer.

- No longer begging for a copper - it now becomes a prayer for God's mercy.
- He prays to be delivered from his physical distress.

Then he can work, and with God's grace, earn his daily bread.

- Then he can also see, so as to follow the Lord Jesus.
- Then he can also go to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.
- If he can have eyes with which to see, it will be possible for him to look for and to follow God.

That is why he does not stop calling on the Lord Jesus.

- He prays without ceasing for that which he so desperately needs.
- And then his prayer is answered.

The Lord Jesus stops. He calls Bartimaeus!

- And all at once Mark the gospel writer, also sees the hypocrisy of the crowd!
- The strangeness is that the entire crowd who just a while ago disdained Bartimaeus, and tried to silence him, are now suddenly prepared to share the Lord with him.
- Seconds ago they would not, but now that Jesus calls him, they are prepared to accept him.

Because they are ashamed!

- That is why they so quickly repent in this regard.
- All at once they realise that the Lord went over their selfishness to this child of His.

Bartimaeus is so glad that his prayer is heard, that he casts aside his garment so as to reach the Lord quicker.

- If he were to have done the thing appropriate to his time, he would have first fastened his garment around himself.
- But he is in too much of a hurry for that.
- Even his garment can be cast off, just so long as he may immediately receive mercy from the Lord.

Then he follows Jesus Christ.

- He goes to Jerusalem.
- He is also going to celebrate Passover – the first meal of deliverance, which he could see.

Without a doubt, there was not a person for whom that Passover was more delightful!

What is the meaning of Bartimaeus and his history?

- That his blindness is an image of man in his sin.
- Bartimaeus was lost both literally and figuratively – that is why Jesus comes to stand over-against him.

Jesus the Christ who was underway to be crucified.

- For Bartimaeus the first feast he could see with his eyes.
- For Jesus the last one He saw, because He had to die, so that Bartimaeus, amongst others could see, and could live.

The death of Christ was for the healing of our sins, just as Bartimaeus' sight was restored.

- But it also means that God requires of us that we will continuously pray for our spiritual healing.
- God oftentimes tests the endurance of our faith.

After all we know that Christ saves – us and our Church.

- But does it mean as much to us as it did to Bartimaeus?
- Do we also stand in front of the Lord with as much perseverance?
- We must also call out louder and louder still, as he did, the more and more the devil and his work aims to remove us from God.

Our prayers must also be directed more towards God's kingdom.

- We must pray more for those things, which pertain to Eternal Life.
- Then our earthly problems would vanish as if of itself.
- We must also pray with an acceptance of the duty, which we ourselves have.
- We must not only pray for mercy - we must also live lives worthy of such grace.

How often does selfishness characterise our prayers, and the manner in which we seek the Lord?

- Many prayers ask for only temporary benefits.
- Such prayers are different to Bartimaeus' prayer. He asked for mercy.

He asks for eyes, so that he may physically shoulder the responsibility to follow and serve the Lord Jesus every day of his life.

- Then he will serve with his hands too.
- Then he will not only receive, but also give.

We must be like Bartimaeus - rather than financially wealthy, we must be spiritually wealthy.

- Poor with regards to money perhaps, but abundantly wealthy in spiritual gifts.
- Rich in the need to be with God and to share in His holiness.

**Amen.**

Prayer.

Psalm 90:8

*-8-Show forth Thy work to all who serve before Thee,  
And to Thy children show Thy power and glory.  
May He, the LORD, our gracious God and Savior,  
Shed on us all the riches of His favor.  
Establish Thou the labors of our hand;  
Establish them, that to Thy praise they stand.*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.<sup>ix</sup>

**Amen.**

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Date: 15 August 2010**

<sup>i</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs046\\_vanderKamp.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs046_vanderKamp.HTM)

<sup>ii</sup> Psalm 124:8

<sup>iii</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:3

<sup>iv</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs145\\_Westra.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs145_Westra.HTM)

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.ccel.org/creeds/apostles.creed.html>

<sup>vi</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs107\\_vanderKamp\\_Helder.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs107_vanderKamp_Helder.HTM)

<sup>vii</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs086\\_vanderKamp.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs086_vanderKamp.HTM)

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10&version=NIV>

<sup>ix</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:14