

“HE WOULDN’T STOP SHOUTING!”  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:46-52  
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“Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3 year-old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sang to his sister in Mommy’s tummy. The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member at the Panther Creek UMC in Morristown, TN. Then the labor pains came. Every 5 minutes...every minute. But complications arose during delivery leading to hours of labor. Would a C-section be required? Finally, Michael’s little sister was born, but she was in serious condition. With sirens howling in the night, the ambulance rushed the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary’s Hospital in Knoxville.

“The days inched by. The little girl got worse. The pediatric specialist told the parents, ‘There is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst.’

“Karen and her husband contacted a local cemetery about a burial plot. They had fixed up a special room in their home for the new baby, but how they planned a funeral. Michael kept begging his parents to let him see his sister, ‘I want to sing to her,’ he said.

“Week two in intensive care and things didn’t look good. Michael kept nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in Intensive Care. Karen made up her mind. She would take Michael in whether they liked it or not. If he didn’t see his sister then, he might never see her alive. She dressed him in an oversized scrub suit and marched him into ICU. He looked like a walking laundry basket, but the head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, ‘Get that kid out of here now! No children are allowed in ICU.’ The mother rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steel-eyed into the head nurse’s face, her lips a firm line. ‘He’s not leaving until he sings to his sister!’

“Karen towed Michael to his sister’s bedside. He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live. And he began to sing. In the pure-hearted voice of a 3 year-old, Michael sang: ‘You are my sunshine,

my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray...’ Instantly the baby girl responds. The pulse rate became calm and steady.

“Keep on singing Michael.’ ‘You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don’t take my sunshine away...’ The raging, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten’s purr. ‘Keep on singing, Michael.’ ‘The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms...’ Michael’s little sister relaxed as rest, healing rest, seemed to sweep over her. Tears conquered the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glowed. ‘You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don’t take my sunshine away.’ Everything changed and the baby got well enough to go home!

“*Woman’s Day Magazine* called it ‘The Miracle of a Brother’s Song.’ The medical staff just called it a miracle. Karen called it a **MIRACLE** of God’s love. A few weeks later, Michael’s sister was baptized at the Panther Creek Church.”<sup>1</sup> It is amazing what the Lord can do in the lives of those who believe in Him and follow His direction in order to make huge differences in the lives of others.

Today we look at **CALLING OUT TO THE LORD FOR HELP**. We have a marvelous Psalm in which to learn about praising and calling out to the Lord, and we see the results clearly through these words of King David. We have Reminders from King David of the GOODNESS of the Lord in the opening verses of Psalm 145 (1-5) that lead us to come to understand the awesome nature of the God we serve.

Verse 3 reminds us, “The Lord is great and is to be highly praised; His greatness is beyond understanding.” He is the God who created all things and has all authority over everything in the universe. The Lord is over all things, greater than anyone, or anything. It is by His Word and by His hand that all things have come into being. Think about that a moment – nothing that is here around us came into being without God’s permission and doing. Indeed the Lord is greatly to be praised!

Verse 4 allows us to see the full nature of what God has done. “What You have done will be praised from one generation to the next,” David says. Only the disobedient come to believe that what

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Morgan, *Stories, Illustrations & Quotes*, [Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000] pg. 591-592)

they have is from their own hand. But those who trust in the Lord will see the glory that He has shared with the earth and praise Him for all that He has done and continues to do for us. We know how great God is because of the generations before us proclaiming the goodness of the Lord.

And David continues by sharing with us The GREATNESS of our God at the end of Psalm 145. We begin to see what God is capable of doing. *“The Lord is righteous in all He does, merciful in all His acts”* (v. 17). Everything that God does is to accomplish His purpose and bring about glory to His name. He is pure and holy and so all that He does is righteous, pure and holy. God desires the very best in everything, and works to bring about the best to all of us. It’s up to us to abide by His Word and trust in His care. There is nothing evil or wicked in the Lord our God, so how can he even possibly think about doing anything evil or wicked to us?

And verse 18 tells us, *“He is near to those who call to Him, who call to Him with sincerity.”* God hears our every word, our every prayer, our every wish and He comes near to us as we seek Him and call out to Him. Every time we say “O God!” (whether it is in exasperation, or in desperate need) His ears perk up, for that is His name. When we call out to Him, God turns His ear toward us, intently listening we to our hearts, ready to be present with us as we sincerely turn to Him in the midst of our need, our hurt, our fear or our sorrow. He is not deaf to our prayers or our calls when we sincerely turn to Him for help or guidance. God desires to be with us, and us with Him, so He promises to be with us when we call out to Him. Be careful then, how you use His name – He may show up when you least expect it, in the most unlikely places.

And then verse 19 assures us of God’s great provision, *“He supplies the needs of those who honor Him; He hears their cries and saves them.”* Believe it or not, God knows each one of us more than we even know ourselves. He knows our situations. He knows our conditions. He knows our aching hearts, the joys of our souls and the needs of our lives. He stands ready to supply us with all our needs but we must honor Him, and believe in Him, and trust in Him before He will meet those needs. God is not a vending machine who coldly answers every prayer and gives us everything we ask for – say

a prayer, get the request; put our prayer up and plunk, the product falls into our hands. No, God delights to meet the needs of those who honor Him and strive to follow all His ways. True, none of us is perfect, but He knows us and sees our trust and our hope in Him. He hears our cries and saves those who call out to Him in sincerity and truth.

And then in verse 20 of Psalm 145, David proclaims “*He protects everyone who loves Him...*” We see that in so many ways in our world. For some God saves them immediately when they cry out to Him. For others God trains them through the pain in their lives so that they learn to trust in Him with their whole lives. For some it is almost instantaneous, while for others it might be years. Some are saved from health conditions; some are saved from oppression and persecution; others are saved from abusive relationships; others are saved from self-inflicted abuse of drugs or alcohol; some are saved from destructive jobs; others are saved from false teaching. For each person who loves God, He hears their cry, knows their need and touches them in specific ways to bring about new life. But for all of us, God supplies salvation from sin when we turn to the Savior, Jesus Christ and claim His work of forgiveness through His death and resurrection.

Looking at all of this we can come quickly to the question, “Who can COMPARE with our God, the One who loves us and cares for us and supplies us with all our needs when we seek to follow Him? There is no one like our God! There is no one who comes close to touching our lives in the way God does. And we see this in our New Testament lesson of Hebrews 4, today, too.

Here in Hebrews 4, the author encourages us to “*hold firmly to the faith we profess*” (14) knowing that WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO LOVES US. Just as much as God loves us as found in Psalm 145, verses 14-16 of Hebrews 4 tells us about this great, high priest who is above all others. He was with God from the very beginning, and through Him God made all things so that everything has its life and being in Him (John 1:2-4). His name is JESUS.

Jesus has been in the presence of Almighty God for all time, outside of the 33 years He spent here on the earth. As the very Son of God, Jesus knows God, and IS GOD, yet “...*made himself*

*nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father” (Philippians 2:7-11).*

You see, Jesus loved us enough that He was willing to come to this world and pay the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, so that we could come back into a relationship with God the Father. He’s been here with us, experienced our struggles and trials and pain and sorrow, so He knows exactly what our lives are like. Every temptation that we endure He has already endured, so He knows all about the stuff of our lives. So in Hebrews 4:15 we hear that *“Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin.”*

Jesus loves us and hears us when we cry out to Him, and He knows exactly what we are going through so that He might be able to guide us and support us in our journey here on the earth. When we put our trust in Him, We find GRACE AND MERCY in Him. As we trust in Him and let Him be our Savior, Jesus provides us the ability to *“approach God’s throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it”* (Heb. 4:16). Mercy and grace right when we need it – What A Promise! What an awesome High Priest Savior we have who brings us life at just the right moment.

And we see that in our Gospel lesson today of Mark 10:46-52 as JESUS HEALS BLIND BARTIMAEUS. Listen To the account (READ Mark 10:46-52).

Now Jesus was on His way to JERUSALEM. He’s on His final journey to the Holy City. He may have stayed the night in Jericho, having spent the previous day at the home of Zacchaeus. Now, Jesus is continuing His journey toward Jerusalem around 15 miles away, with just a week before His crucifixion.

There are many people crowding around Him, all excited, pressing in and creating quite a ruckus. As they pass through the city gates, following the road to Jerusalem, the procession makes its way past the usual line of beggars. The beggars lined up along the road into and out of the city in order to maximize the number of people they encountered, seeking the generosity of the people to help them make a living with the donations received. These beggars would have been suffering from a variety of conditions, and when they heard or saw people passing by, they would lift up their monotonous wail of anguish in order to get as much help as possible from the travelers going by.

Notice, mind you, that Jesus did not initially stop to help the line-up of beggars along the road. He has passed by already, but one of the beggars inquires about who has drawn such a large crowd that was going out of the city. He is told, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by” (10:47). This gets him very excited, for this beggar was blind Bartimaeus.

Now there’s something about losing one of our 5 senses that sharpens the others significantly. Sitting there day after day, it was sure to reach the ears of the beggars the work that Jesus was doing throughout Israel and Judea. Certainly they would have heard of the miraculous healings Jesus has done for the lame man, or the 10 men with leprosy, and the curing of the epileptic young man. Surely they would have caught news of the raising of Jairus’ daughter and the healing of the woman who had a bleeding problem for 12 years. Most certainly they would have heard of the feeding of the multitudes of people by the Sea of Galilee. With all of these miraculous accounts in his mind, Bartimaeus begins to consider the hope that he, too, might find help. He’s been begging so long, but begins to have the hope of a new life as he puts his trust in the work of Jesus. If Jesus can heal the others, why not him, too?

But there is something very interesting in The **CRY** of Bartimaeus. With all the excitement going on in the crowd, Bartimaeus gathers courage and begins to try to get the attention of Jesus over all the other noise of the people. He cries out because of his great urgency and need, more than just requesting a few coins to buy food. This urgency comes from his deep longing to become “normal” again, to be able to see with his eyes and begin using his time for the betterment of his community. He’s

so tired of just wasting away with a cup in his hand begging from others. He wants to become a new man, but he can only do that if his eyesight changes.

Look closely at what Bartimaeus calls Jesus. It's not "Jesus of Nazareth," but "Jesus, Son of David!" He realizes that Jesus is not just a man from Nazareth, maybe a good teacher. No, Bartimaeus comes to understand that Jesus is much more. Along with the accounts of His healings, reports of Jesus' teachings must have come to the beggar-line outside of Jericho. And Bartimaeus concludes that with His teachings AND His miraculous works, Jesus HAS to be the "Promised One," the Messiah. So Bartimaeus quickly realizes that this may be his last chance for a miracle in his life, and begins shouting out, "*Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!*" (10:47).

And he keeps on shouting, so much so that all of the people in the crowd notice it, too. But they are not very willing to help this nobody beggar alongside the road. His words are so contrary to the joyful celebration that they are lifting up, so they try to quiet him. But Bartimaeus grows even bolder in his request and shouts all the more, "*Son of David, have mercy on me!*" (48).

Have you ever gotten so desperate in your life that all you can do is to cry out for help? "Help me, SOMEBODY help me! Maybe you were stuck in a room, or stuck in a tree, or stuck in a situation, and so desperate were you that you shouted for help. In the midst of that situation you were in, did others come over and see your condition and then try to quiet you down because you were making so much noise that you were disturbing the peace? How ridiculous to even consider that people would try to quiet you down when your need was so great! Why wouldn't they help?

That is The great NEED of Bartimaeus. No one in the crowd even thought of helping him up to go to Jesus. They all saw his situation. They all saw his station in life. Yet none of them considered the possibility of helping him out, so all he had left was to call out some more. So desperate was Bartimaeus that he wouldn't stop shouting until he got the result he needed. And it is through this commotion that he causes that shows Jesus just how desperate he is for a new life. Jesus sees the faith in Bartimaeus, and He realizes He can't just walk away from it. So Jesus stopped, and said to those around

Him, “*Call him.*” (10:49)

Jesus heard the desperate cry of Bartimaeus and he stopped His march toward Jerusalem in order to attend to His cry. “Jesus Christ is not a dead Christ who is to only be remembered by us. He is a living Christ who, at this very moment, is all that He ever was, and is still doing all that He did when He walked on the earth.”<sup>2</sup> The line to the throne of God’s grace is open 24/7/365.

Jesus **RESPONDS** to the cry of Bartimaeus according to the words of the Greatness of God that we heard about in Psalm 145. Jesus responds first by hearing the desperate cry of one who sincerely called out to him. Then He is righteous in all He does, so out of mercy for this man of faith, Jesus stops in order to supply the need of the one who honored Him with the title, “Son of David.” Jesus heard the cry of Bartimaeus and opens up the opportunity to save him.

Now Bartimaeus had a choice to make. The procession has suddenly stopped right there in front of him – would he cower back, afraid to go to the One he has shouted to? Or would he expect this great one to come back to him? Or would he respond to the call of Jesus and go to Him? You see, it’s one thing to call out to one greater than we are for help, but it is another thing to obey what He says.

But look closely to what Bartimaeus’ reaction to Jesus’ call was. Mark tells us, “*So he threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus* (10:50). He threw off the ragged cloak that he had wrapped himself up in for warmth, sprang up to his feet, and probably ran to Jesus with the help of someone around him. All the while, Jesus waits for him, and when Bartimaeus arrives in front of Jesus, He asks him a simple question, “*What do you want me to do for you*” (10:51)?

The initial request of mercy from Bartimaeus was so vague that Jesus wanted him to be very specific. And true to his yearning heart, he replies to Jesus, “*Teacher...I want to see...*” (51). And just as is the greatest delight of Jesus’, He tells Bartimaeus, “*Go...your faith has healed you*” (52).

“Jesus saw the faith that Bartimaeus had and could not help but honor it. For the first time in his life, Bartimaeus opens his eyes and sees Jesus, the Son of David, who took time to stop and hear his cry

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<sup>2</sup> (Wubbles & McDowell, *Bible Nobodies Who Became Somebodies*, [Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2004] pg. 38)

for mercy” (*Bible Nobodies...*, pg. 39). No great pomp and circumstance. No great ceremony. Jesus just spoke the word, “Go” and healing came to Bartimaeus. And in great joy of the newness of his life, Bartimaeus he followed Jesus as the newest disciple.

What a tremendous account for all of us. But WHAT IS OUR PART IN THIS? What do we get out of hearing about this miraculous event? Folks, God’s word is true, every bit of it! And when we hear about Jesus healing blind Bartimaeus with His word, we can trust that it was not just for him, but a sign for all of us of the love and mercy and grace that Jesus has for each one of us. In your desperation, in your own situation that surrounds you, call out to Him, and come to Him so that He might bring new life to you as well.

But remember what our part is in all of this – The **CONDITION** for us is to come to Jesus in faith, certain that He is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of David, the One who has all power and authority to protect us, and supply us with all our needs according to His riches and power and glory. Stay faithful to Jesus in all that He commands, and you will not be disappointed. Let’s pray.

Father, thank you for your promises, for your love for us and for sending Jesus to us to save us. Help us always to have faith in Him, first and foremost, so that we might have life, in Jesus’ Name.

Amen.