

**Intro:** I was 17 years old and in a desperate situation. I knew my life was spiraling out of control: My problem was, I didn't know what to do about it. In my heart...it knew it was a spiritual problem  
**Symptoms:** *Drugs, Car Wreck, School: Family Divorced...again Single Mom: On my own*  
I was lost...and I KNEW it...I just didn't know where to turn...what to do...where to find help  
What I didn't know was there was a group of students in my home room class at school...praying for me.  
*As they began to pray...God began to work. People stopping me on street, Knocking on door: Phone Booth*

I finally got so desperate that I was talking with one of the men coming by my house:  
Told Him: *Want to do something...don't know what to do! Where to Go: My fear....Baptist/Lutheran*  
What you needed is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ...He will show you where to go!  
I got on my knees...and I prayed with him...and in the words of Paul in Rom 10:13 *"I was saved"*  
*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom 10:13*

Today Finish our series on the "Road To Hope" 2 Goals:

- Encourage You: *Never committed life to Jesus Christ, do that today (been waiting...stalling)*
- Equip You: *Give you some tools to help you in conversations with people in your life (stop/get)*

### 3 Examples From The Life of Jesus of People Being Saved

#### 1. Blind Bartimaeus: In Need But Not Because Of His Own Actions Mark 10:46-52

Sometimes we find ourselves in trouble of our own making! That is not the case with Bartimaeus:

- *He didn't "do" anything...It is just life*

No indication that his blindness had anything to do with something that he had done, or not done.  
He is blind...it is his state of being...and It simply IS.

Our culture almost always wants to place blame. One thing you learn with maturity: LIFE HAPPENS  
What do we say: Probably heard it 100 times this week RE: Corona: *"It is...what it is"*

- *Often others don't want us to change our bad situation.*

Think about this for a moment. Doctors aren't going to fix this situation. No cure going to be found  
Only hope Bartimaeus has is Jesus...and people don't want him to call out! (Bothered by his need!)  
Even been in that situation. Where no one has any answer...but they don't want you to try what you can

Illus: People are sometimes like the crabs in the basket... Always pulling you back!

They don't have any answers...but for some reason they discourage you from trying what you can!

- *Persistence pays off!* Bartimaeus simply refuses to be shut down. Or shouted down!

In fact, the more the crowd shushed him, the louder he got! His one chance was here...not going to miss it  
Jesus stopped: Lit = *he stood still; and he called him to himself*

- *Request:* What would you have me do for you? What do you want? What is your will?

Imagine Jesus asking you THAT today. Suppose He came...and He Stopped...and He Asked:  
What would YOU ask for today?

- *Faith:* Go, your faith has saved you: Lit means: *to save, to make whole, to heal (secondary)*

Here is what I think...Bartimaeus got more than he ever imagined. He got his sight...and His salvation!  
Notice: He **"FOLLOWED HIM ALONG THE WAY!"** Not just into the city...but on the path! Disciple!

**Applic:** Maybe you are here today, or listening online, and you are in a bad situation...Not your fault  
You didn't create the virus...You didn't shut down the restaurants...You didn't want to get sick...Div  
But life has happened to you...and there are people around you...telling you...Just quiet, deal with it  
Listen: Jesus is passing by this morning! He is HERE...Where two or more are gathered...Call Out  
Refuse to be quiet...Refuse to sit quietly on the side of the road begging for help....when God can Heal!

2. Peter: In Need Because Of His Own Actions Mt 14:22-32  
Bartimaeus didn't create his problem...But...Peter did! He always does. He is right in the middle all time  
You probably know the story very well. One of the most familiar in the bible. Jesus walking on water  
Peter sees...says to Jesus...If it really is you...call me to you. And Jesus does..He calls Peter...

- *Following God in your own strength*

What happened to Peter is what happens to us when we try to live the Christ life in human strength  
The reality is, we will NEVER be able to live the life Jesus calls His followers to on our own  
When we come into relationship with Jesus, the Spirit of God comes to live in us...gives us strength  
Eph 5: Be filled with the Spirit: Lit = to be surrendered to and empowered by  
When we don't have that...try on our own...we are destined to fail

- *Following our own direction*

You see both Peter and the other disciples doing this on a regular basis

~Peter with the sword at arrest in Garden

~James and John: Can we sit on your right and left; Who is most important; Destroy city?

~Disciples trying to cast out demons in their own strength: Prayer and Fasting

- *Eyes on Circumstances instead of on Jesus*

It happens to us all. We start out with the best of intentions, just like Peter did, but take our eyes off Him  
When we do, and we begin to see the reality of what is around us: Sink: Vs 30 *When he saw the wind*  
Right now for many of us, all we CAN see is the wind. We see the REALITY of what is around us.  
What we DON'T see is the Spiritual Reality of what God is doing

Applic: What we need to do

1. Call out to Jesus: All who call upon the name of the Lord: Rom 10:13 Mt 14:30 Save Me!!!
2. Ask Him to help you see the Spiritual Reality around you. Not human circumstances  
2 Kings 6 King of Aram Servant: "What shall we do?" Hills full of horses chariots of fire

Applic: Maybe you are in a MESS of your own making! That's OK! Peter was, I was, Prodigal Son  
Maybe you are like Peter, and you are looking at the circumstances you got yourself into  
Wind, Waves, Crashing around you, Boat is far behind you, Going down for count Only blame self  
Your answer...is the same as Peter's...and the same as mine: "Lord, Save me!" Call out to Him!  
You are going to find Him faithful...Never going to hear...Not again, not this time, Go away!

### 3. Thief On Cross:

Desperation Time: No Where Else to Turn

Luke 23:39-43

That is where the thief on the cross was. Desperation time:

~Condemned justly

~Had a choice to make: Call out

~Hours...maybe moments to live

~Or Curse...and turn away

Maybe you are here today, or listening to me, and it is desperation time for you. I have been there.  
Desperation time is when everything around you has collapsed, and you are hopeless. No way forward  
I came to that place one day lying in the middle of a road after a motorcycle accident @ 60mph  
Lying in the road, heard a car's brakes lock up...tires squealing as it slid toward me...Thinking...No way

At that point, all I could do was lean on Jesus. Been running as far and as fast as I could. End of road  
In that place of desperation I simply called out to God...and asked Him...Save me...Fm Myself

- Sometimes He fixes the situation: With me that night He did.
- Sometimes He walks with you through it...and gives you the strength to endure

You will never know what He is going to do until you call out to Him.

CONCL: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom 10:13

- Doesn't say everyone who is worthy, Everyone who tries hard, Everyone Calling first time  
Everyone who calls out...Will be saved  
Are you ready to do that today? Are you ready to throw in the towel...Stop trying...Start Trusting  
Maybe you Know someone that needs this message...Maybe it is YOU  
Maybe you have heard me encourage you to pray every week for 4 weeks...keep putting it off  
Keep trying yourself...Keep struggling...Keep Hoping there is another way without Surrender  
Today: It's time for you to pray...do that with me: Or, Go find someone: Watch this

## **Prayer of Salvation**

**Father I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins.**

**I believe that your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay the price for my sins.**

**I trust Him now as my personal Savior and Lord.**

**I ask Him to come into my life and commit to follow Him all the days of my life as He gives me strength.**

**Thank you for hearing my prayer...and answering it.**

**Amen**