

October 28, 2012

## **PEOPLE KNOW YOUR STORY, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR GLORY!**

by Pastor Clarissa Martinelli

Our story starts with blind Bartimaeus sitting by the wayside begging for a living. He had a crisis in his life; he was blind, and he was a beggar.

Somebody here knows what it feels like to have a crisis in your life. Somebody came to this service this morning in a crisis situation.

You may have just received that bad doctor's report. You may have had a major disagreement with a family member or friend. You may have had unexpected repairs and now your savings is gone. A company you worked for is downsizing and they're laying you off. It has just been one of those weeks, and if one more person asks me to do something – well, I would advise them not to ask.

I don't know what your crisis might be, but I've come to give you some good news.

Your crisis can be the turning point in your life because **PEOPLE KNOW YOUR STORY, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR GLORY!** It is sad that many people never think about God until they have a crisis in their life.

A Crisis is a problem or situation or condition that is beyond your control or ability to change. Bartimaeus had a crisis - a problem, a condition beyond his ability to change. He could not heal himself, he could not deliver himself.

The woman with the issue of blood for 12 years had a crisis in her life. She had exhausted every natural possible solution. She had seen many physicians and had spent all of her money. However, her condition was worse than ever.

Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, was also at a crisis point in his life. His daughter was at the point of death.

The good news is: for all three of these people, their crisis became their turning point. **PEOPLE KNEW THEIR STORY, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEIR GLORY!**

Bartimaeus' crisis became his turning point.

First - He recognized his need: You can't be helped until you admit you need it.

Second - He made a choice: He chose to cry out to Jesus.

Your life to date is the product of choices you have made. Your life may be a wreck because of wrong choices you have made, but today, like Bartimaeus, you can make the right choice and cry out to Jesus. One right choice can turn your life around.

Third - He conquered pride: One of the biggest hindrances to people receiving from God is the spirit of pride. Pride will tell you you're too good for that. If Naaman the Leper would have let it, his pride would have sentenced him to death by leprosy.

Pride will tell you that you can do it yourself. Pride will tell you that real men don't cry. Pride will tell you that all your friends are watching you, so you better behave as if everything is great and you're in control.

If Bartimaeus had let his pride keep him from crying out to Jesus, then he would have missed his miracle. Jesus was near to him, but it was his cry of desperation that got the attention of Jesus.

I can pray for you and intercede on your behalf, but it is your cry coming from your heart that will get Jesus' attention. If you are too proud to cry out to him, Jesus will pass you by.

But be warned. People around you will try to stop you from receiving from God. They told Bartimaeus to be quiet; he was too emotional, too loud; he was making too much noise. But when you get desperate, you won't let public opinion keep you from your miracle. When the people told him to be quiet, Bartimaeus cried louder. Somebody today needs to turn up the volume.

You might as well know that not everybody wants you blessed. Not everybody that says they're your friends are really your friends. Anybody that would try and stop you from getting to Jesus and being blessed, delivered or healed is not really your friend. When Bartimaeus pushed through his pride and the objections of his friends, he got Jesus' attention.

I believe somebody listening to this message has made up his mind that this is his

turning point. He may be declaring right now, “I don’t care what other people say or do, I have got to get to Jesus.”

**PEOPLE MAY KNOW YOUR STORY, BUT THEY CANNOT GIVE YOU GLORY!**

You can call me weak if you want to.

You can call me a little nutty if you want to.

You can call me a stranger or you can call me late for dinner.

I don’t care what you call me, as long as I can touch him, even if I can only touch the hem of Jesus' garment. It doesn’t matter what you say about me. I’m past that now. A little while ago it would have bothered me; it may have offended me; it probably would have distracted me and gotten me off track, but I’m past that now. **FOR YOU MAY KNOW MY STORY BUT YOU CANNOT GIVE ME GLORY!**

Bartimaeus said: This is my day. I’m not leaving like I came. I’m not going to be a blind beggar anymore. I’m not going to be a bound to anger or resentment or bitterness any longer. I’m not living in the past anymore.

“Then Jesus stood still.”

What a powerful phrase, Jesus stood still. Bartimaeus had the master's attention. Something miraculous is getting ready to happen for Bartimaeus.

Then came the consolation:

“Rise Bartimaeus, Jesus is calling you.”

Wow, the Jesus is calling for Bartimaeus. First Bartimaeus is crying out for Jesus, now Jesus is calling for Bartimaeus.

I came to tell somebody who has been crying out to Jesus, you have not been forgotten, he has heard your cry. Jesus is here today because YOU called him. **FOR JESUS DOES KNOW YOUR STORY AND IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN GIVE YOU GLORY!**

“Bartimaeus rose casting away his garment.” Everything that identified him as a blind beggar and tied him to his past, he threw off.

“He could see himself healed.” He could see himself living the life he was destined to live, happy, prosperous, a righteous marriage, a healthy body, a nice home, a wonderful family, a ministry that glorifies God.

“Bartimaeus rose casting away his garment.” Somebody today needs to throw it off. You’ve been carrying around those hurts and disappointments for too long. You’ve been bound to your past for too long. You’ve let people label you and limit you for too long. Saul tried to put David in his armor, but David threw it off.

The future is calling you, and it’s awesome, but you have to throw off those binding garments of the past.

Bartimaeus' crisis brought him to a turning point in his life. I’ve come to tell you this morning that what looked like the end is just the beginning of a new chapter. What Satan meant for evil, God is going to turn it for good.

You may be at what from all human perception is a crisis in your life. But I believe God is turning your crisis into a turning point, to point you in the direction of God’s glory in your life.

Everything in your life may be shouting “Crisis!” But I stopped by to tell you that God wants to make your crisis a turning point, to experience the miracle power of God.

That very day, Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus. His crisis turned him to Jesus, and Jesus set him free.

**FOR JESUS DOES KNOW YOUR STORY AND IS WAITING PATIENTLY TO GIVE YOU GLORY!**