

# BLIND BARTIMAEUS

## SUMMARY

1. Oxford Sleepout story
  - a. Felt invisible
2. How does Bartimaeus approach Jesus?
  - a. Bartimaeus would rather try and risk being disappointed than not try – do we dare to pray boldly?
  - b. Bartimaeus was speaking to an audience of one – we’re not performing, don’t be put off by others (even in the fellowship)
    - i. Risk looking foolish, looking disappointed – we can pull back or push on
    - ii. Bartimaeus was demanding – just like the psalmists!
  - c. Bartimaeus knew what he wanted – we need to set our sights on bold goals.
  - d. What bold prayers are we praying?**
  - e. My examples – how often am I praying for Wheatley to be utterly transformed?
3. This is not the “Prosperity Gospel”
  - a. James & John also made a bold request, which Jesus denied
  - b. It was from a place of pride – *but* seeking eternal glory is commendable. That’s why Jesus tells his disciples how they should seek eternal glory. (Romans 2:7 - *To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life.*)
  - c. They needed to seek eternal glory in Jesus’s way – service and self-sacrifice
4. What do you want your life to count for?
  - a. Bartimaeus – we really only know his name, and a brief interaction with Jesus which points to Jesus’s glory.
  - b. I don’t want the Book of Life to read that my net contribution was that I went to church every Sunday instead of watching the rugby - I want it to be a list of names of lives impacted, people following Christ more closely.
  - c. What eternal glory are we seeking?**
  - d. Presenting our lives to God – some will be burned up, and that’s good – but will some just fade out of existence? Not sinful, but not really of any value to the Kingdom?
  - e. Or, taking Rev 4 – what crowns do we want to cast before the throne?
5. Let’s not grow comfortable with just “not sinning”, let’s not retire from the Kingdom of God. What are we aiming for?