

## LEAVING THINGS BEHIND Part 3

Text: Mark 10:46-52

**Key Word:** Behind

**Key Thought:** There Is Much Freedom to Be Gained by Leaving Things of our past in the Past

My sermon for today continues the thought of last week about choosing to leave behind things of our past that often hold us back from going forward. I shared the words of a song that seemed to portray what I wanted to say.

Every heart needs to be set free  
From possessions that hold it so tight  
'Cause freedom's not found in the things that we hold . . .  
**And we can't imagine the freedom we find  
From the things we leave behind.**

Written by Michael Card, Scott Roley and Phil Madeira  
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I mentioned in my earlier messages about a number of Biblical accounts of people leaving behind significant items in their lives to follow Jesus. We spoke about **Simon/Andrew/James & John** who left their **nets and families** to follow Jesus. **Levi (Matthew)** walked away from his **tax table** and the **money and prestige** associated with it. The **woman at the well** left behind her **water jar** and the **broken relationships** she had succumbed to.

Today I want to take a closer look at the **blind man** who dropped **his cloak** that he had once used to catch his beggarly coins as well as **Lazarus** who left behind **his grave clothes** and **an empty tomb**.

### What Will We Leave Behind to Follow Jesus?

**I. SIMON/ANDREW/JAMES/JOHN - Nets/Families**

**II. LEVI - Tax Table/Money**

**III. THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - Water Jar**

**IV. THE BLIND MAN - Beggar's Cloak**

**V. LAZARUS - Grave Clothes**

#### IV. THE BLIND MAN - Beggar's Cloak

Mister blind man are you here begging once again? Catch this coin if you can! If you or your parents had not sinned, you would not be in the position you are today (cf. - John 9:1-2)! You deserve everything that has come upon you! If it wasn't for OUR kindness, you would die of malnutrition! You worthless example of mankind!

This would be a typical way of taunting a blind man in the ancient world. Those with physical disabilities have always had difficulties rising up society's ladder of acceptance. People often think, wouldn't we be better off without them. The answer to that question is very simple. **NO!** They offer so much to our way of life. There was no need to rebuke him the way they did.

Today, I want to look into the heart of this blind man whom the Bible calls Bartimaeus. The name "**Bartimaeus**" means "**The son of Timaeus**" as indicated in verse 46. According to Thayer's Greek Definitions the name "**Timaeus**" means "**highly prized.**" Bartimaeus was living in the shadow of his father's fame.

#### Recognize These Names?

\*\*\* Recognize any of these names: Owen D. Young, Pierre Laval, Hugh S. Johnson, James F. Byrnes, Mohammed Mossadegh, Harlow Curtis?

You should; according to Time magazine, these are all people who have been designate as "**Man of the Year**" by Time, indicating they had the greatest impact in that year of all persons living on Earth. The celebrity of today is all but forgotten tomorrow.

Around a man who has been pushed into the limelight a legend begins to grow as it does around a dead man. But a dead man is in no danger of yielding to the temptation to nourish his legend, or accept its picture as reality. I pity the man who falls in love with his image as it is drawn by public opinion during the HONEYMOON OF PUBLICITY. \*\*\*

Dag Hammarskjold, quoted in C. Swindoll  
"The Grace Awakening"  
Word, 1990, pp. 238-9

"Don't confuse **fame** with **success**. Madonna is one; Helen Keller is the other."

Erma Bombeck  
U.S. syndicated columnist  
Bits & Pieces, March 30, 1995, p. 3

#### IV. THE BLIND MAN - Beggar's Cloak (Contd.)

Even knowing all of this, we find that Bartimaeus didn't give up. He had a heart to push ahead and receive from the Son of David what he needed. It created an opportunity in which Jesus called him to come closer. In doing so the blind man did a very significant thing.

*“Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.”*

*Mark 10:50*

**This cloak was one that identified him as a beggar.** It was quite common for blind beggars to spread out a cloak on the ground when they were soliciting alms. The gates of a city were an ideal place to beg because of the constant traffic of people. These pilgrims and townspeople would feel compelled to give.

**Therefore, this cloak was also his link to financial support.** He simply threw it to the side so that nothing would hinder his approach to Jesus. What an expression of his faith toward Jesus. Our Lord took notice and asked a simple question for the sake of the crowd.

*“What do you want me to do for you?”*

*Mark 10:51*

His answer was simple and straightforward.

*“Rabbi, I want to see.”*

*Mark 10:51b*

**There can be things that we hold onto that hinder us from receiving our miracle from God. By doing so we place our trust in others instead of turning toward God.** There comes a time when we must cast it aside in order to advance our faith toward God.

*“‘Go’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’”*

*Mark 10:52*

“Faith is not a distant view but a warm embrace of Christ.”

*John Calvin*

Our faith needs to be wrapped around our LORD with a garment of trust that leads us to act upon to desires of our heart.

## V. LAZARUS - Grave Clothes

We now move from a **beggar's cloak** to **grave clothes**. **I wonder how many people are walking around in the grave clothes of their past life?** It is so easy to be become bound to that tiny "*strip of linen*" that suggests that we are dead.

We are told in this incredible story that Lazarus "*God helps*" lived at Bethany "*House of Affliction*" (John 11:1). This was a place that Jesus loved to visit while on His trips to and from Jerusalem. **It doesn't surprise me that our Lord would love to go to those who needed His help - especially those living in a place of affliction.** Don't let anyone ever convince you that Jesus doesn't care!!

It is interesting to note that when Jesus called out in loud voice, this verb is often translated "*shouted*" (John 11:43). The word is used only eight times in the Greek Bible and six of those uses are found in the Gospel of John. Of the six times, four of them refer to the people shouting out to have Jesus crucified. **So here we have a contrast of the people crying out for the death of Jesus while Jesus "shouts out" to bring Lazarus back to life.**

I've heard it said that if Jesus had not specifically ordered Lazarus to come forth that every corpse in the range of his voice would have risen from the dead. Four days was long enough for Jesus to wait. The Jewish mourners believed that up to the fourth day after a person died, the spirit and soul of that body permanently departs and can never return again. They thought not only had he died, but now his soul had departed until the day of the resurrection of all souls. Therefore, **Jesus waited to come until this hopeless time arrived.**

\*\*\* Our neighbour's cat was run over by a car, and the mother quickly disposed of the remains before her four-year-old son Billy found out about it. After a few days, though, Billy finally asked about the cat.

"Billy, the cat died," his mother explained. "*But it's all right. He's up in heaven with God.*"

The boy asked, "*What in the world would God want with a dead cat?*" \*\*\*

Contributed by Ross Sams, Jr.  
"Reader's Digest"  
May 1996, p. 102

God has plenty of warm feelings toward those who die as one born of the Spirit of God.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."*

*Psalm 116:15*

## V. LAZARUS - Grave Clothes (Contd.)

Jesus didn't want to leave his friend behind the grave stone that was protecting his body from wild animals looking for a meal. Neither did He want his friend to walk bound by the grave clothes that others had wrapped around his hands, feet and face.

These “*strips of linen*” (John 11:44) would be similar to a type of bandage cut in narrow strips. Jesus was also wrapped in these strips of cloth (John 19:40). Jesus had a similar strip of linen placed separately around his head (John 20:7). There was also a large shroud of linen placed over the entire body of Jesus (Matthew 27:59) [Some believe it is the Shroud of Turin].

Just as the grave clothes were not going to keep the Lord from rising from the dead, so they were not about to keep His close friend bound up. There is no further mention of the stench that would have accompanied Lazarus. That is because when Jesus places life into us He not only destroys **the sting but also the smell of death**. Life becomes true life in Christ and Christ alone.

*“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*

*I Corinthians 15:55 KJV*

*“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

*John 10:10 KJV*

**I began by stating that I wondered how many of God's people are walking around in the grave clothes of their past life?** It was Jesus, not Lazarus or those gathered around the grave side that demanded that the grave clothes be removed. These clothes represented a loss of hope. They shouted forth a message of defeat. Jesus would not allow His friend to be bound by them any longer until his appointed time. Lazarus never put these pieces of linen on. The mourners did.

Not only were they commanded to take off the grave clothes they were also told . . .

*“ . . . and let him go.”*

*John 11:44*

There are many people who need to be let go. Let go from the **memories of your past**. Let go from the **things that have defeated you**. Let go of the **disappointments** and your **hurtful expectations**. Let go of **broken relationships**. Let go of **words that have cut into your heart like a sword**. Let go of **impossible dreams that hinder your reasonable goals**. **LET GO AND LET GOD CONTROL YOUR LIFE.**

I believe today is the day for some here to let go of their beggarly past. Anyone who has received the light of the Gospel should not be walking in darkness. It's time to call out to God and **receive the wonderful sight of beholding the Healer**.

**Others need to be set loose from the graveclothes of their past**. Jesus continues to run toward hopeless situations that others shy away from. He's not looking to fix you up with a bandage treatment.

**Is it your day to be let loose of the things that have kept you from being set free?**

C:\My Documents\WPWin(21)\Sermons.2024\Christian Growth\Mark10\_46.52.wpd

Date: June 9/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Just as I am - D

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### What Will We Leave Behind to Follow Jesus?

**IV. THE BLIND MAN - Beggar's Cloak** - *cf.* - *John 9:1-2; Mark 10:50; Mark 10:51;*  
*Mark 10:51b*

**V. LAZARUS - Grave Clothes** - *John 11:1; Psalm 116:15; John 11:44; John 19:40;*  
*John 20:7; Matthew 27:59; I Corinthians 15:55 KJV; John 10:10 KJV; John 11:44*