

At home service – 24th October 2021 - Prepared by Edward Dodd

1. I sing the almighty power of God,
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And built the lofty skies.

2. I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command,
And all the stars obey.

3. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
That filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word,
And then pronounced them good.

4. Lord, how your wonders are displayed,
where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread
or gaze upon the skies.

5. God's hand is my perpetual guard,
He guides me with his eye;
Why should I then forget the lord,
Whose love is ever nigh?

PRAYER: I would like us to read hymn 519 for our prayers of adoration and forgiveness. It speaks of God and his love for us. If we come on bended knee and seek His forgiveness, the last line of each verse will be our blessing.....

Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls hath found,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy pardoning love extend.

Almighty Son, Incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death,
Before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy quickening power extend.

Jehovah - Father, Spirit, Son -
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
grace, pardon, life to us extend. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

READING: Mark 10 verse 46 –52. They went to Jericho. As Jesus was passing through Jericho, on his way out of the city – his disciples and a great crowd were with him – Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there he began to shout. ‘Son of David!’ he cried, ‘Jesus! Have pity on me!’ many rebuked him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David! Have pity on me!’ Jesus came to a stop. ‘Call him here!’ he said. They called the blind man. ‘courage!’ they said to him. ‘Get up! He is calling you!’ He threw off his cloak and leapt up and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him, ‘what do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘Master teacher! My prayer is that I might see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go! Your faith has cured you’. Immediately he saw again, and he followed him upon the road.

TALK: Recently on Google news, a man in Turkey had had an enjoyable time, got drunk and got himself lost in the woods. Next morning, he woke to hear voices, and so he asked what was happening, to which someone replied, ‘we are looking for a man who has been reported missing.’ This man rose with the good intention, if not a clear head and joined the search party. After a while, another group of searchers could be heard calling out a name for any response. As the 2 groups drew closer the man stopped and said, ‘That’s my name!’ ‘They are looking for me!’ He had been searching without realising, he was the one that was being searched for!

While quite humorous, this story could resemble the crowd that were following Jesus. There was a noise of searching, questioning this up-and-coming rabbi. Some were trying to trap Jesus or looking for recognition for their own pious actions. Lots were lost, and yet did not realise it.

This was not the case for Bartimaeus. He knew 3 things, and his conviction caused him to shout louder than the crowd to try and attract Jesus’s attention.

Although Jesus was focused on what was going to happen in Jerusalem in the coming days, He wanted to use his precious time left in spreading Love to others. Jesus spots someone in the crowds, someone who recognised his own needs, and had a sincere desire to meet with Him.

Bartimaeus 1stly knew Jesus was someone special. ‘Son of David’, he shouted. ‘Master.’ ‘Teacher.’ Bartimaeus’s conversation, as with any relationship with God begins with us knowing and recognising something of who God is and what he can do for us, and that is why we come in faith. We begin the Lord’s prayer with such a proclamation ‘Our Father, who art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy name.

2ndly, Bartimaeus knew his need. After acknowledging who Jesus was, Bartimaeus seeks Jesus’ attention for a moment of his state of lowliness; ‘Have pity on me.’ While there was no pity from the crowds who hushed him, Jesus saw the sincerity in his request and the acknowledgement of his need. So Jesus stopped. And called him. A harsh request it seems, it would have been easier for Jesus to go to him. But how he came to Jesus speaks volumes.

On being called the blind man jumps up, leaving his cloak behind; possibly his only early possession and makes his way through the crowd, some who were not too

helpful. He believed in Jesus and that his old life had gone. If he doubted that, then how would a blind man ever find his way back to his cloak? When Jesus asks, 'what do you want from me?' Bartimaeus doesn't reply with what he wants, but 'My prayer is.' in other words, you have the power, if it's your will, then I should love to see again.' 'Go your faith has cured you.'

3rdly Bartimaeus knew what he wanted to do with his newly found vision; He followed Jesus. No longer hushed by the crowds because of his infirmity, but a demonstration of the power of Christ to all he met and who would listen to his story.

What 3 things can we learn from this story?

1stly we need to see God as someone special as revealed to us through his son and our saviour. Someone who wants to love us.

2ndly, we need to recognise our failings and need of Him. When He speaks and calls us we should be eager to trust Him and take steps of faith away from the past and into a new creation for us.

3rdly, if we have been healed; forgiven; blessed in any way, it is for a reason. To follow Jesus, in the service of others. Amen.

1. When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee,
Heal us, heal us today!
the deaf came to hear and the blind came to see.
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

2. A paralysed man was let down through a roof.
Heal us, heal us today!
His sins were forgiven, his walking the proof.
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

3. The death of his daughter caused Jairus to weep.
Heal us, heal us today!
The Lord took her hand, and he raised her from sleep.
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

4. When blind Bartimaeus cried out to the Lord,
Heal us, heal us today!
his faith made him whole and his sight was restored.
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

5. The lepers were healed and the demons cast out.
Heal us, heal us today!
A bent woman straightened to laugh and to shout.
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

6. The twelve were commissioned and sent out in twos,
Heal us, heal us today!

to make the sick whole and to spread the good news.
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

7. There is still so much sickness and suffering today.
Heal us, heal us today!
We gather together for healing, and pray:
Heal us, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER: Lord grant us compassion and a discerning mind to help those in need; particularly those who are not so open as Bartimaeus about their afflictions, but suffer in silence, or in denial of their needs. Lord lead us into a position of truth and love where their needs and our concern may come together in a wonderful manifestation of your healing power. We pray all these prayers along with the unspoken words of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Amen.

HYMN:

Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
Of our life's wild restless sea,
Day by day his clear voice soundeth,
Saying: 'Christian, follow me.'

2.As of old apostles heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for his dear sake.

3.Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, 'Christian, love me more.'

4.In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures:
Saying 'Christian, love me more.'

5.Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all.

BLESSING:

May the grace of Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy spirit ;
be with us all, evermore, Amen.