

## SIX STEPS OF THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:46-52

- Much confusion today about the Gospel
- “Born again”
- “Sinner’s prayer”
- Strange that we can take something as simple as the Gospel and mess it up!
- In this passage of scripture that we have read today we find six simple steps to the Gospel
- This is not the only way to present the Gospel, but it is one simple and clear picture of the truth of the good news that is focused on Jesus Christ

### I. STEP ONE: Recognize Your Need

1. Perhaps the hardest step
2. The only way that God can help us is if we recognize our need
3. Bartimaeus – knew exactly what he needed (v 51b)
4. Physical blindness represented a greater problem
  - a. Spiritual darkness
  - b. Resigned himself to life as a blind beggar – sidelines
  - c. Not what God intended
5. Had to recognize need for himself

### II. STEP TWO: Believe That Jesus Can Help

1. Bartimaeus somehow came to believe that Jesus could help
2. Luke tells us about Zacchaeus
3. Word spread through Jericho and reached the place where Bartimaeus sat begging
4. The hope arose in his heart that if Jesus could change a man like Zacchaeus, then there was hope for Bartimaeus
5. Notice what Bartimaeus cried out – “Jesus, Son of David” (v 47)
6. A Messianic title
7. Bartimaeus showed faith

### III. STEP THREE: Make Your Need Known

1. Not enough to realize need and know that Jesus can help

2. Must make need known
  - a. What if blind Bartimaeus had just sat passively at the side of the road, knowing that Jesus could help, but doing nothing to make his need known?
  - b. Jesus would have passed by
  - c. So today, many are passed by simply because they do not make their need known
  - d. “You have not because you ask not” (Ks 4:2)
3. The crowd attempted to silence Bartimaeus (v 48)
  - a. Many do not feel that prayer is worthwhile or that God doesn’t care or that God will not help
  - b. In today’s world turning to God is not easy – it is going against the stream
  - c. But Bartimaeus could not be silenced – he cried out all the more
4. And listen to his prayer
  - a. Very simple
  - b. Prayed – not in church – on the roadside of a busy thoroughfare – in the midst of a parade
  - c. He simply said, “Have mercy on me”
  - d. It was enough

### IV. STEP FOUR: God Hears Your Prayers (v 49)

1. Jesus stopped
2. Let that sink in
3. God hears and stops and focuses His attention on individuals – even a blind beggar like Bartimaeus (see Mark 5:27-32)
4. Jesus was busy – on a mission to Jerusalem
5. But there was time for a poor, blind, *nameless* beggar
6. Prayer has the power to arrest God – to make Him stop, look and listen

### V. STEP FIVE: Put Aside Whatever Is In Your Way (v. 50)

1. “and throwing off his cloak”
2. Outer garment – well worn

3. Hebrews speaks of laying aside the weight and sin that so easily besets us
4. The outer garment was a snare and entanglement
5. Represented things that hinder our approach to Jesus
6. He threw it aside
7. Many things should be laid aside (Col 3:8-9,5)

#### **VI. STEP SIX: FOLLOW HIM IN THE WAY (v 52)**

1. Perhaps the most important
2. Where we fail today
3. To follow is to be a disciple
4. Continuance – perseverance – stickability
5. Proof or evidence

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- Much of the confusion about the Gospel and salvation lies at the feet of those who claim to be Christ followers
- We do such a poor job of it
- Gandhi is reported to have said, “I would be a Christian if it were not for Christians”
- Alexander the Great – “Change your ways or change your name”