

INTRO – Today we have scripture showing OT prophecies fulfilled in the NT

(God is faithful – remember that in your prayer time)

OT – Jeremiah – Israel is conquered, carried off as captives, and JER promises deliverance  
(including the blind and the lame)

NT – Jesus meets a blind man, Bartimeaus, and delivers him from his blindness

NB – We are here in NSJ – Captives – *and God can restore us too* **LUP**

JER – Prophet before AND DURING the Babylonian captivity

Before – Jer prophesies repentance (or else) they don't

During – prophecies change – positive, supportive, encouraging - like this **READ**

**NB – This is from the end of JER – while in Captivity**

“Shout for joy – exult – proclaim your praise and say 'The Lord has delivered His people' “

What? While still captives – rejoice? But look what follows “I will bring them back”

“I will gather them from the ends of the earth with blind & lame”

“They will return as an immense throng” **FOR I AM THEIR FATHER**

NB – We are made in the image & likeness – HE IS OUR FATHER TOO

I've told you before we should co-opt the “Me Too” movement

If you did this for Israel, who had sinned against you & you sent into captivity

Look upon us, who have sinned, and are now stuck in captivity ME TOO

PS126 “The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy”

3<sup>rd</sup> stanza – Restore our fortunes O Lord, like torrents in the southern desert

downpour hottest (Restore us too)

HEB “High priest is taken from among men and offers sacrifice for sin

because he is taken from among men – he deals patiently with them who err

for He Himself experienced human weakness”

Jesus can identify with us because He became man; He experienced temptation, human weakness

Yet His Father glorified Him

**READ IT**

GOSPEL **READ IT**

- Bartimeaus had heard about Jesus (so have we)
  - You can know ABOUT God and not believe (Head Knowledge)
  - But when you know God, when you believe (Heart Knowledge)
  - Bartimeaus wanted to be healed – BUT BETTER THAN THAT knew he could be
- Watch what happens:
  1. *Bart hears about Jesus, and calls out to Him.*  
**First step – is prayer**  
*When was the last time you prayed? Admitting your powerless & His powerful*
  2. *Bart is rebuked, but pays no attention.*

**Second step - perseverance**

*Same with us – the world says “Religion is obsolete”*

*“Church is irrelevant” “Prayer’s a waste of time”*

3. *Bart is told to come to Jesus, sets aside the cloak and goes.*  
*A beggar would lay out the cloak and collect coins and food on it*  
*At night he would wrap himself in it – It was all he had*  
*When he drops the cloak he’s letting go of everything to go to Jesus*  
**Third step - surrender**  
*Let go of your wants so that Jesus can deal with your needs.*
4. *Finally, With no resources of his own, Bart presents his need.*  
*Jesus asks “What do you want me to do for you?”*  
*-Same question as last week to James and John*  
*They wanted to sit on right and left – beggar brings needs, not wants.*

GOD is a loving Father – he sees our needs, he knows our wants

***The Lesson of Bartimeaus: Prayer Perseverance Surrender to God’s will***