

The Miracles of Jesus Part 11

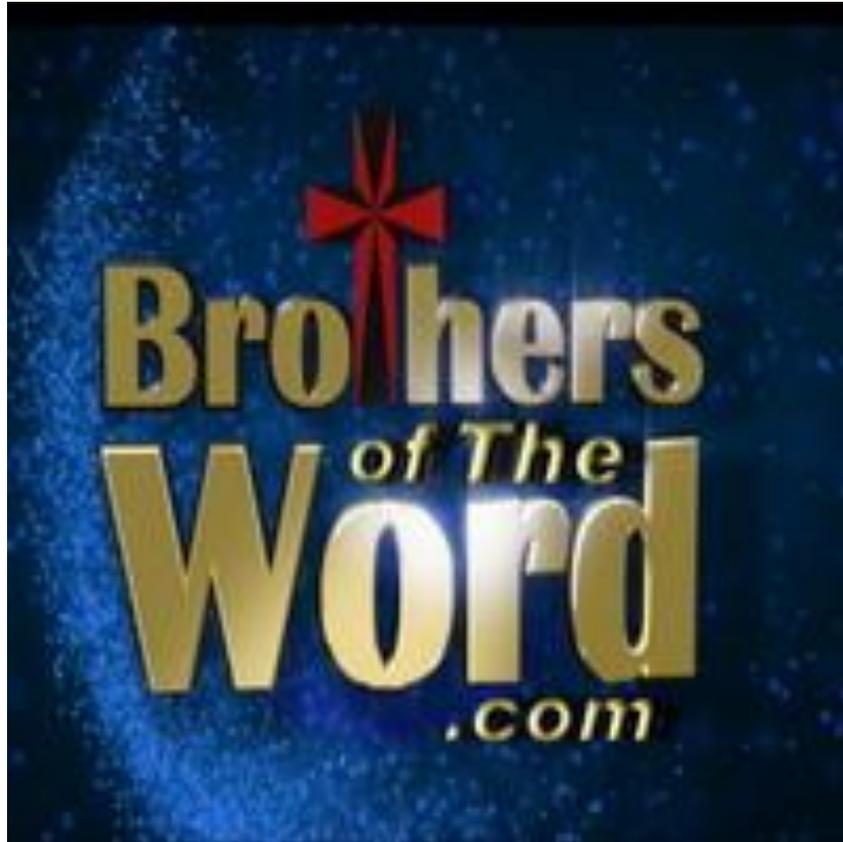
Sermon Title: **The Miracles of Jesus Part 11**

Sermon Number: **7826**

Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Sometimes you have to separate yourself from the crowd because sometimes the whole crowd can be wrong.

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And now for 7826, "The Miracles of Jesus Part 11."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Always a wonderful joy and delight to have you to tune in and join us. Well, I would like to share just a little humor. Pastor O'Riley, he was in the middle of his sermon when he noticed a man had fallen asleep with his head on his wife's shoulder. "Wake up your husband," Pater O'Riley snapped, the wife smiled and replied, "You put him to sleep, you wake him."

We're sharing part 2 of an account, we started on last time and this is actually part 11 in our Miracles Series, The Miracles of Jesus series, but we didn't get an opportunity to complete the last account that we looked at and so, we're doing part 2 of that one. And that's over the gospel of Mark, we're looking at the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 10, Verse 46 through 52. The Gospel of Mark Chapter 10, Verse 46 through 52. And we'll read it again beginning with Verse 46, Mark, Chapter 10.

They came to Jericho and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples on a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, son of Timaetus set by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David have mercy on me."

Many charged him that he should hold his piece, but he cried the more a great deal, "Thou son of David have mercy on me." And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called and they called the blind man saying unto him, "Be of good comfort, rise he calleth thee." And he, casting away his garment rose and came to Jesus

and Jesus answered and said unto him, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" the blind man said unto him, "Lord, that I might receive my sight". And Jesus said unto him, "Go that way, thy faith has made thee whole," and immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus in the way.

So, we're talking about the miracles of Jesus. This is part 11, The Miracles of Jesus Part 11. Just to recapture some of the highlights, some of the points that we make from this illustration, this particular miracle. We talked about always place yourself where the outgoings of God are. Always place yourself where God's presence is flowing out of. So, that's where blind Bartimaeus happened to be in a place where Jesus was flowing out of. He was coming out of Jericho and Bartimaeus was positioned in perfect position. So, always put yourself in the places where God's presence is flowing, so that's prayer or reading your bible or at church or among other believers or where your faith and expectancy is strong.

So, you put yourself in fasting, seeking the Lord. You put yourself in the atmosphere of where God is moving. And then we also talked about seizing the opportunity, seizing the opportunity. Bartimaeus had to seize the opportunity while the opportunity presented itself. We are not sure if Jesus ever pass that way again, so Bartimaeus probably had one chance to get Jesus' attention and he did. And then we talked about being willing to stand out from the crowd. This account really teaches us that sometimes you have to separate yourself from the crowd because sometimes the whole crowd can be wrong. Sometimes the whole crowd can be wrong and you have to be willing to stand for right even if everybody else is wrong and even if you're the only one.

00:05:01

And you know, whenever you are doing something that is in the will of God, I mean, you're doing what's right. When you're doing what God told you to do, it doesn't matter if the whole crowd is wrong and that doesn't matter. As long as you're doing what God told you to do, you're doing what's right and you're doing what pleases God, it doesn't matter about the crowd. So, be willing to stand out from the crowd.

This also teaches us, don't take direction for your personal life from a crowd. Don't take direction for your personal life for a

crowd because this crowd was about to mess up Bartimaeus. They were messing his personal life so, he didn't allow the crowd to give him direction for his personal life. Normally speaking, the crowd mentality is normally -- it is the wide path, this is the path that's -- it's the path most travel, thank you (00:05:58).

So, it's a wide path, but see, eagles fly alone. Eagles don't run in packs. So, to go certain heights and to do certain things, I mean, it's a different path you have to take. So, it teaches us that you have move against the crowd even warm buffet probably the greatest investor of our time. He always said, "Buy when everybody else is selling". When everybody else is selling in the market, that's when you buy. And he said the converse, when everybody else is buying, that's when you sell. And he's teaching that principle that you have to move against the crowd. You have to move against the crowd.

You know, if you go to the store right now, this is a time where you want to be buying winter clothes because nobody's buying winter clothes right now, so that's what's cheap. Man, you can get your own fur coat for a little of nothing right now. So, you buy your winter clothes when it's getting hot because the stores are trying to get rid of all that inventory so they cut the prices way down, "Man, I'm buying my best polo type shirts when it's winter time because they put the polos out for a little to nothing and I just go by and pick them all up."

So, you have to move against the crowd and that's a principle of life. So, we learn there from blind Bartimaeus, he had to be willing to stand out from the crowd. You never take direction for your personal life from the crowd because normally, the crowd -- that mentality is normally not the best, it's normally not the best. So, you have to be willing to stand alone and stand away from the crowd. Then, we also learned that Bartimaeus would not quit. The crowd tried to get him to quit and he wouldn't quit, he would not quit.

When you quit, quitting makes you weak. Quitting makes you weak. Quitting becomes a habit. So, these are reasons why we shouldn't quit. Quitting makes you weak. Quitting becomes a habit. Quitters never win, quitters never win. Quitting gives others an excuse to quit. Quitting gives others an excuse to quit. Quitting reduces your confidence. Here's some reasons not to

quit. You've already been hurt, so you might as well stick it out and get a reward from it. You've already been hurt.

See, Bartimaeus was already embarrassed. He had already embarrassed himself, so he might as well stick it out at this point. You've already suffered, so no need quitting now. No, you stay in and get a reward from this, so you stay in. We don't quit because somebody believes in you. You never know who is watching you. You may have a child, or a relative, or a friend, somebody is watching your life.

So, if you quit, you affect somebody else. Somebody is depending on you. Somebody is depending on you, so don't quit. You get stronger when you don't quit. You get stronger, you get smarter when you don't quit. You build character when you don't quit. You grow when you don't quit. You become an inspiration to others when you don't quit. You become an inspiration to others.

I'm sure all of us, we were inspired this past weekend to see (00:09:04) win his 5th masters. See, that inspired everybody. But he wouldn't quit. You know, the critics had told him to give up, they had told him that he was washed up, and they had told him to retire with dignity. They had told him all of these things and he would not quit. So, now, they're calling this the greatest come back in sports history because he refused to quit. Champions never quit. Winners never quit. And so, we become an inspiration to others when we don't quit, when we don't quit.

Man, God loves it when life throws us adversity, after adversity, after adversity, after adversity, but yet we won't quit. We won't quit. We won't stop. We won't stop believing. We won't stop working. We won't stop smiling. We won't stop loving. We won't stop giving. We won't stop sharing. We won't stop caring. We won't stop. We won't quit.

00:10:00

So, God loves that type of tenacity, and he loves that type of perseverance when you don't quit. So, this is one reason Bartimaeus was highlighted because of his not quitting, his ability not to quit, his ability to persevere, his importunity. So, this is why he was highlighted.

Here are some tips to help you to not quit. Number one, take one day at a time. Take one day at a time. You know, if you try to solve all your problems at one time, they can become overwhelming. So, you take one day at a time. Just get through the day. Just get through the day. Take one day at a time. Don't bite up more than you could chew. Just deal with today. Just deal with today.

Then, trust the Holy Spirit. Trust God. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you. Trust God to put you in the right place and put you around the right people. Trust God to work and move on your behalf. You trust God. So, we're not designed to carry the weight of the world. No. God humbles that, and so we don't have to try to carry the weight of the world. You relax and you trust God. Just trust God.

And then number, three, rest. Your perspective is renewed when you rest. So, sometimes, when you're facing difficult situations, don't quit. You simply need to rest. You're just tired, so you need to rest so that you can be renewed. So, you rest.

Number four, pace yourself. Life is a marathon, it's not a sprint. So, you want to build yourself for the long haul. You want to build yourself for the long haul, so you pace yourself. You pace yourself. Don't go a hundred miles an hour and try to do it all at once. No, pace yourself for the long haul. That's how you last. That's how you last and so you have to treat life as a marathon. You'll want to incorporate things into your life that help you to last for the long haul, for the long haul.

Praise God. Man, I've been preaching now for 30 years. Praise God. I'm still going strong, see? Man, I love that! I love that, and I'm looking better, I'm in better shape. I'm stronger, faster, smarter, wiser than I've ever been in my life. Well, I thank God. I was built for the long haul, built for the long haul.

Now, I preach like a house on fire when I was 18, 19, 20, but I didn't burn myself out. Man, I'm still on fire today. Glory to God! Still on fire today! Still on fire today, 30 years later still on fire today, and even better-looking. But you have to build yourself for the long haul. You have to build yourself for the long haul. So, you have to build in breaks and time for renewal. You have to pace yourself. Don't wear yourself out and be stressed out and burn out, and all of those things. You have to pace yourself, and

then you'll want to remain faithful and consistent where you are. Remain faithful and consistent where you are.

Here are some other reasons not to quit is, think about those who are cheering you on. It could be someone who has proceeded into the next life and they're a part of your great cloud of witnesses and they're cheering you on. It could be your mother or your grandmother, your father, your grandfather, some great heroes that have been a part of your life, and they've gone on and now they're cheering for you. So, you don't quit because of those who are cheering you on, both in this life and those who are already on the next life.

Here's something, think why you started. Always remember your reason, your why. It keeps you from quitting. You have to go back and remind yourself of your why, your reason. Think why you started, and then take time to celebrate. Celebrate the small victories. Celebrate what this going right. So, celebrate yourself. Nobody else takes you out? Take yourself out. Take yourself out. If somebody says, "Is it your birthday?" Say, "No, I'm just celebrating myself." I'm just celebrating today. Every day is a celebration! Man, it's a blessing to be alive. It's a blessing. Just celebrate yourself.

You are a unique individual. You're special. Man, you're handcrafted by God. There's no one on Earth that quite has the mix of personality and talents and gifts and makeup. No one on earth is quite like you, and so you're one of a kind. You're unique, so you have to take care of yourself. Celebrate yourself.

Man, now start to say you are an antique, but you're special. No, you're special. You're special. You hold high value because you're one of a kind, you're rare. That's what I was looking for. You're rare. You're rare, there's no one else on Earth like you. You're the only, one of a kind, and that's why when you simply copy someone else, you're really limiting yourself because God didn't create you to be another copy. He already has one of those. He wanted one of you. So, he's created us to be individual and to be unique.

Just be yourself. Be yourself. So, you have to celebrate yourself. Celebrate yourself. Celebrate yourself man, and learn to enjoy yourself and take yourself out to dinner.

00:15:00

I may do that tonight. Celebrate yourself.

So, here are some other things we learned from Bartimaeus. Don't stay in the same old condition. Don't stay in the same old condition. I like Bartimaeus because Bartimaeus was willing to change, man. He had been blind a long time, all his life, and he made a decision. He acted when he had the opportunity. I like that.

So, that lets us know, don't stay in the same old condition, but make a decision, then act. Be willing to act. I like something that Coach Paul Bear Bryant said. He said, "Cause something to happen." If nothing is happening in your life, you cause something to happen. You make something happen, make something happen.

Man, your ship has not come in swimming (00:15:47) ship. You make something happen. You got to make something happen sometimes. You got to make something happen, make something happen, I like that. Turn it over and say, "Cause something to happen. Cause something to happen, man. You can create something that creates a ripple effect. You could make something happen if you are urging enough, if you're persistent enough, if you are determined enough, if you are bold enough, and this is what we learn from Bartimaeus.

Nothing was happening in his life. He was sitting by the side of the road, blind and begging. Nothing was happening and Bartimaeus, when he got the opportunity, man, he caused something to happen. He caused something to happen.

That's what I've been really loving about these miracles we've been studying. I love people that cause something to happen. Do you remember the one with a touch to him and his garment? She caused something to happen.

Audience: Yes.

Elijah Bronner: She caused something to happen. She caused it. She caused it.

Audience: Yeah.

Elijah Bronner: She caused something to happen. So, we learn, and we have to make something happen, cause something to happen. Make something happen. I like that. You have to be sick and tired of being sick and tired, so cause something to happen, make something happen.

You have to accept responsibility for your own life. Now, that's what Bartimaeus did. He didn't listen to the crowd. He said, "Look. This is my life, and I have to live this life. I'm blind. You all are not blind." So, he had to make his own decision for his own life. He had to take responsibility for his own life.

So, you have to know where you want to go and get going. You have to know where you want to go in life or you get going. Be willing to do whatever it takes, and you have to have that tenacity, that boldness, and that determination. You will never possess what you're unwilling to pursue, and Bartimaeus showed that (00:17:35) determination, and tenacity, and perseverance, and his boldness, and he possessed what he pursued. He possessed what he pursued, and it takes courage to change.

It's easier to remain the way we are, but it takes courage when you make a decision to change because you're going in an uncharted territory. So, it takes courage to say that, "I want to change my life, and I want to change where I am," and, "I want to change my circumstances."

Change, this is what C. Neil Strait said. He said, "Change is always hardest for the man who is in a rut, for he has scaled down his living to that which he can handle comfortably, and welcomes no change or challenge that would lift him up. So, notice that.

Someone else said that stubbornness and unwillingness to change is the energy of fools. Stubbornness and being unwilling to change is the energy of fools. Mankind is divided into three categories, those who are unchangeable, not willing to change, those who are changeable, and those who calls change. Those are the three categories of man. You're in one of those categories. You either not changeable, you're changeable, you cause change. You make things change. So, this is something that we had learned from Bartimaeus's life. Let me share those.

I came across an interesting little poem entitled, "Go from Speaking of Things We Should Change from Things We Should

Go To.” I believe it was John Mason who pinned this poem, and he said, “Go from burnout to being recharged. Go from failure to learning. Go from regrets of the past to dreams of the future. Go from being frustrated to being focused. Go from seeing God nowhere to seeing him everywhere. Go from prejudice to reconciliation. Go from ordinary to extraordinary. Go from defective to effective. Go from spiteful to insightful. Go from whining to winning. Go from lukewarm to own fire. Go from security to opportunity.”

Audience: Yeah.

Elijah Bronner: “Go from fear to faith. Go from resisting to receiving”

00:20:02

Go from thinking of yourself to thinking of others. Go from complaining to obtaining. Go from drifting to stirring. Go from being a problem to being an answer. Go from being a copy to being an original. Go from trying to committing. Go from envying others to serving others. Go from ingratitude to thanks giving. Go from fault finding to forgiveness. Go from criticism to compliments. Go from procrastination to progress. Go from alibies to action. Go from hesitation to obedience. Go from blending in to standing out, which what Bartimaeus did. Go from hesitation to obedience. Go from fracture to focus. Go from taking to giving. Go from wishing to wisdom. Go from the world to the word. Go from being full of pride to being full of God.

I mean, I love that, I love that. “Go from” so, we should be in this tension of constantly evolving, constantly changing, moving from one level to a better level, and improving ourselves and those around us. So, we learned from Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus, he left where he was in order to have something better than he never had.

Here is something else we learned from Bartimaeus. If you look at one the verses in the text. When he called out to Jesus, he simply said, “Have mercy,” and that was his plea, “Have mercy, have mercy.” That shows us humility. He didn’t come out of his own self-righteousness. He was basically saying, “Have mercy on me Lord, the sinner.” And remember Jesus said, when Jesus gave the parable about the (00:21:51) and the publican one just beat on his chest and said, “Have mercy on me Lord, the sinner.” And

that's what Bartimaeus did. He just cried out, "Have mercy. Have mercy, Father, have mercy. Have mercy, it's your mercy, it's your mercy. I'm in a pitiful situation and a pitiful condition and I just ask you to have mercy on me. Have mercy on me, have mercy on me. I ask you to forgive me and heal me. Have mercy. Just let your mercy touch me. I just want a drop of your mercy. Not that I'm deserving, not that I'm righteous, not that I am good, but because you are. I cry out for your mercy. Have mercy. Have mercy." That showed us humility.

So, Bartimaeus came in great humility. So, here, a great perseverance which we called importunity. He had humility, he also had faith because he actually -- he called him Lord, he called Jesus, Lord. Now, this account is actually in Matthew, Mark and Luke, and in one of those accounts, he calls him Lord. The other two accounts, he calls him Jesus. He cried out and said, "Jesus, Son of David." Showing that he believed he was the Messiah, but he also believed he was the Lord. He said, "Jesus, O Lord." He called Jesus, Lord. That is faith when you make Jesus Lord of your life. He called him Lord. So, he releases faith, he called him Lord. And I believe that that was by the Holy Spirit that he called him Lord, that he knew who he was. He called him Lord.

Now, notice this, he knew that Jesus had the power to command his deliverance, but he also knew that he, not only had power but he had goodness. This is actually -- you don't have to turn that, but in Psalm 72, Verse 12 and 13, it foretells the kindness, and the health, and the salvation that would come to those in need when they cry out to God, it foretells that. So, Bartimaeus knew just from what he had heard that the one who would come, he would be kind, he would be willing to help, and he would provide for anybody that would cry out to him.

So, he probably knew that and so, he releases faith. God never ignores a desperate prayer. He never ignores a desperate prayer. And Bartimaeus was desperate, he was desperate. And I want you to see in Verse 49, the bible says that, "Jesus stood still." Jesus stood still. That lets us know that no matter how busy we are, or how in a hurry we are, you should always be willing to stand still to do good for somebody. You should always be willing to slow down to do good. Always be willing to slow down to do good.

And then you notice, Jesus called him. Jesus said, "Bring him here." Now, Jesus could have healed him from a distance. Jesus had sent his word before and heal people, he could have healed him from a distance, but Jesus wanted him to come and gave him an invitation and he said, "Bring him here. Come." He called for him.

Jesus calls for us because he wants to have personal interaction, personal relationship. I love this, man, I love this. You never wonder why Jesus was so adamant about who touch me. When that woman touched the hem of his garment, he was so adamant about finding her because he wanted to bring her to him. He wanted to know who he was, so she could come to him. He didn't want her to grab a miracle and run off without ever knowing him. He brought her face to face with himself. That's just (00:25:28) to know us and have a personal relationship with us.

So, he did the same thing with Bartimaeus. He could have healed Bartimaeus where he was, he called him, "Come here," brought him to him, looked him in his eyes, probably hugged him. Man, that's a personal relationship, isn't that good? Man, He calls us to him. He calls us to him. He doesn't just send his power to you, he calls you to him, you calls you to him. We get to have face to face encounter with Him. He calls us. And then, I love this, Bartimaeus got up, he arose, he changed his position to rise. I mean, you change your posture, your position. We have to rise up in our thinking, in our actions, in our belief.

He rose, then he cast off his garment that he had on. You have to cast off some old anything that will hinder you. See, he didn't want a trip or he didn't want that garment to trip him up or be in the way, that's what the bible says in Hebrews, "Let us lay aside every sin and weight that that's so easily (00:26:26)." So, don't let anything in your life hinder you. Sin or anything else that will hinder your relationship or hinder your race in life. Praise God.

Then in Verse 51, Jesus -- I love this, Jesus asked me one question. "What is it you want me to do for you?" Man, you're talking about a heart of compassion. You're talking about God showing his willingness to bless us. God showing us his willingness to do as favors. God is disposed to show favors. He is full of kindness and mercy, and goodness. He said, "What is it you would have me to do for you? What would you like me to do for you?" Oh, man.

I'm thinking about a scripture of an Isaiah Chapter 30, Verse 18 that says, "Lord waits." He longs and he waits and lifts himself up so that he can be gracious to us and be good to us. He's longing and waiting. "Oh man, for an opportunity to be good. Praise God, praise God. I love that.

And then the final point I'll make is after he healed him, the bible says that Bartimaeus followed him. Bartimaeus wanted to learn more about the kingdom of God and about the son of God. He followed him.

So, when our lives are truly enlightened, we are here to Jesus, we stick to him. They changes our lives, we stick to him. When he changes our lives, we stick to him. Bartimaeus stuck with him. He followed him to learn. He followed him to testify. This is the son of God. He followed him to give his testimony. "I was blind, but now I can see, because of God's mercy, because of God's goodness, God is good." Bartimaeus was helping Jesus preach wherever he went. Bartimaeus was right and he said, "He is good, I was blind and I can see now. He is merciful, he is kind, he is gracious, he asked me what he wanted to do for me. Bartimaeus prayed for Jesus.

He followed him and stuck with him. So, he was a student, but he was also a preacher. Bartimaeus was on witness and team for Jesus. Oh men, I'm out of time. Praise God. Let us pray. Father, we just love you and we're just rejoicing you. We give you thanks. Thank you Lord, for your wonder grace and your mercy. And we thank you for the miracles of Jesus and we thank you for this tools and principles that we walk out in our lives. We love you and praise you. And this in Jesus name, we pray. Let every heart say, "Amen."

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