

Sermon Followed by Service

August 8, 2021

Mark 10:46-52

“Shush! Quiet! Stop interrupting! Get out of our way! Stop bothering me!” Ever been on the wrong side of a shushing? What do you hear when you get shushed? “You’re loved and what you say is important”? Or when you get shushed do you hear something more like this: “You and what you say don’t matter”? It doesn’t feel good to be shushed, ignored, put off, does it?

When you’re feeling shushed, think of Jesus and Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus knew a bit about being shushed and put off out of the way. Bartimaeus was blind, a beggar. He couldn’t pay his way through life, so he had to sit at the side of the road bothering and begging. I’ll let you imagine how many times people looked the other way, turned the other way, ignored him, shushed him. Then Jesus comes down the road, with his disciples and a crowd around him. So what does Bartimaeus do? He begs. But he doesn’t just beg the crowd for money, he begs for something better than money, he begs for mercy from the Son of David.

Bartimaeus was blind, but as blind as he was, he saw Jesus better than many in the crowd following Jesus. That blind man saw Jesus as “the Son of David,” God’s promised Savior. So he didn’t just beg for a buck; he begged for mercy from the heart of God -- “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

And he got shushed. Mark tells us, “Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” The words may have been: “Keep quiet. Don’t be such a bother.” But the message was: “You don’t matter as much as we do. You aren’t as important as we are. You aren’t worth our time.”

Why, do you think, so many people tried to shush Bartimaeus? It may have been because he was a beggar, a bother, a pest. It may have been because he was blind, broken, so he just couldn’t be as important as they were. It may have been that he just wasn’t part of the “in crowd.”

How about today? Who gets shushed today? Beggars, bothers, the broken and needy, those who are different. Who gets shushed today? Sometimes you and me. Why? For those same reasons as Bartimaeus, right? Being a beggar, a bother, a pest. They (we) aren't as cute, as likeable, as important, as popular. They (we) don't fit in as well as others, and so "shush."

In a family it might work this way -- The kids are begging and so they get shushed. The wife isn't thinking "like she's supposed to" and so she gets shushed. The husband "just doesn't understand" and so he gets shushed.

For the hurting, the guilty, for those who are different, it might work this way -- The hurting get shushed because they're too much bother, too needy. The guilty, because "After what they've done, who are they to say anything?" And those who are different, who look different, sound different, act different? It's so easy to think: "And who's fault is it anyway? If they'd just think like they're supposed to think, if they'd just be more like us, then everything would be OK." And so hearts and souls are shushed and ignored.

What does Jesus think of that? Listen to what Jesus does in our lesson. The world is trying to shush Bartimaeus. But Jesus stops and says: "Call him." Jesus called for the beggar, the bother. The man who didn't matter to the crowd mattered to Jesus. Even though the world didn't think Bartimaeus was worth it, Jesus saw him as worth his time, worth his attention, worth his love.

When the world, he, she, them think you don't matter, Jesus says you do matter. Jesus calls when others won't. Jesus calls when others would just shush you and push you off. Jesus calls when others treat you like you just aren't worth it. Jesus calls, "Bring the little children to me." Jesus calls the hurting, "Come to me you who are weak and burdened and I will give you rest." Jesus calls the hated, like Matthew the tax collector -- "Follow me." Jesus calls the guilty, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Jesus calls the forgotten, the ignored, the weak and the guilty, the helpless and the lost. Jesus calls when others won't.

Why? Jesus' love is different from the love of the crowds. Jesus looks at people differently than the way the world looks at people. Jesus doesn't see people as bothers who aren't "worth it"; he loves us as worth his life and death - that's the price he's already paid for us. He doesn't see the guilty, the failures, as people to be shunned; he sees us as souls to be forgiven. He doesn't see people as insiders who belong or outsiders who just wouldn't fit in; Jesus sees us all as people to be brought in close. Jesus' love is different from the love of the crowds. Jesus calls when others won't.

Why? Not to get from us, but to do for us. We see that in our lesson. Jesus was in the position of power. The blind man needed him. Jesus was in a position to make some demands. But what did Jesus do? He offers: "What do you want me to do for you?" "For you!" Jesus called the blind man for the sake of the blind man. And Jesus calls you for you!

In our lesson, Jesus gives sight to the blind man. But Jesus does more than that. Jesus tells Bartimaeus, "your faith has saved you!" In faith, blind Bartimaeus saw Jesus as the Son of David, the Messiah, God's promised Savior. The Old Testament had showed him that the Son of David wouldn't treat people the way the world treats people. But the Son of David would treat people right, and more than that, the Son of David would treat people with righteousness.

As the Righteous Son of God, the Son of David would apply his righteousness to the hurting heart, to the guilt-stricken, to those abused and those put off. People beaten down and abused by the world would be held right by God; people put off as not worth it would be accepted; the guilty would be declared not guilty and right; and the hurting and heartbroken would be healed and held as right in heaven. In faith, that's what blind Bartimaeus saw Jesus doing for him. And Jesus didn't disappoint. Jesus saved Bartimaeus' sight and his heart and soul as well.

Bartimaeus was right. Jesus is the Son of David who applies his righteousness to our wrongness. The sin and guilt that would put us off from God, Jesus took it, took it to the cross, paid for it, gone. Instead, he has covered you with the goodness that attracts. Now, God doesn't see you as guilty to be

shunned; he sees you as right, forgiven and innocent, to be listened to and held close. He doesn't see you as a bother to put off; but He sees you as worth his time and attention, worth his love. He doesn't see you as an outsider to ignore; he sees you as family fit for heaven.

And so Jesus calls you, for you! When Jesus calls, he may not ask us, "What can I do for you?" He may not heal our eyes or cure our hurts today. But Jesus is calling you, for you, with something better. He calls to tell you, "I am the resurrection and the life ... whoever lives and believes in me will never die." He calls you to tell you, "Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God; trust also in me." He calls you to tell you, "I am the Good Shepherd no one can snatch you out of my hand." He calls you to tell you, "I love you." Yes, Jesus calls you close FOR YOU to bless you.

So when you feel shushed or put off by the world, when you feel put off because it seems the only reason people call you is just to get something from you, remember Jesus - he's listening, he's calling for you! Amen.

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we might often feel "shushed!"

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we hear our Jesus showing his mercy to those shushed by the world.

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Hymn 340

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears And bids our sorrows cease.
'Tis music in the sinners ears; 'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off'ring made That you might live again.

Glory to God and praise and love Be ever, ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.

M: The grace of our Lord †Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take
re - fuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -
tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the
Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken Together*)

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your Church, as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins, but in peace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-7,10-13

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope.”

This is what God the LORD says -
he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness....

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the ends of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it,
you islands, and all who live in them.
Let the desert and its towns raise their voices;
let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice.
Let the people of Sela sing for joy;
let them shout from the mountaintops.
Let them give glory to the LORD
and proclaim his praise in the islands.
The LORD will march out like a mighty man,
like a warrior he will stir up his zeal;
with a shout he will raise the battle cry
and will triumph over his enemies.

PSALM 142 (CWS)

Refrain

I cry a-loud to the Lord; I raise my voice to God; I
cry a-loud to the Lord, my God: Lord, have mer-cy.

Psalm Tone

I cry aloud to the LORD;
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.
I pour out my complaint before him;
before him I tell my trouble.

When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who know my way.
Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

Refrain

I cry to you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”
Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Lord will rescue me from every evil
and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Alleluia.
(2 Timothy 4:18)

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

"Come, My Soul, with Every Care"

Hymn 409

Come, my soul, with ev'ry care; Jesus loves to answer prayer.
He himself bids you to pray And will never turn away.

You are coming to a king-- Large petitions with you bring,
For his grace and pow'r are such, None can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let your blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.

Lord, your rest to me impart; Take possession of my heart.
There your blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.

While I am a pilgrim here, Let your love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey's end.

Show me what I am to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die your people's death.

SERMON

Mark 10:46-52

HYMN (page 12)

"How Firm a Foundation"

Hymn 768

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world,
that God the almighty Father gather and guide it so that we may worship him in
peace and tranquility:*

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in
Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith,
proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Lord, in
your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our pastors and teachers and all leaders of the Church, and for all the people of God:

M: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all who serve you and your people. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church. Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way to salvation:

M: Almighty and eternal god, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the gospel. Help us, your Church, to grow in love for you and for one another, so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom:

M: Almighty and eternal God, graciously direct those who have been set in positions of authority among us, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, and free those unjustly deprived of liberty:

M: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. In your mercy hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

Hymn 369

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,
Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be thine!

OFFERING

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Make the Most of Worship - Note the Cues

Have you noticed how we try to help you prepare for worship? About 10-15 minutes before the service, the pre-service music cues us to quiet our voices and set our minds on the voice of the Lord. About 5 minutes before the service, the ushers light the candles cuing us to ready ourselves to be enlightened with Christ. At service time, the pastor steps before the altar and prays. If you haven't already, pray for your worship and for the pastor! Then we hear the chimes; our hymnals are open to the right page and we are ready to chime in with our voices.



1 How firm a founda - tion, O saints
 2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -
 5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -



of the Lord, Is laid for your
 not dis - mayed; For I am your
 for re - pose I will not, I
 way shall lie, My grace all - suf -
 ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -



faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
 God and will still give you aid; I'll
 will not, de - sert to his foes. That
 fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The
 ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And



more can he say than to you
 strength - en you, help you, and cause
 soul, though all hell should en - deav -
 flames will not hurt you; I on -
 then, when gray hair shall their tem -



he has said Who un - to the
 you to stand, Up - held by my
 or to shake, I'll nev - er, no
 ly de - sign Your dross to con -
 ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall



Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 nev - er, no nev - er - sake!
 some and your gold to re - fine.
 still on my shoul - ders be borne."