



JERICHO, THE CITY OF PALM TREES

Slide 1

Have you **Slide 2** ever heard of the city of palm trees, **Slide 3** one of the oldest cities in the world? Today's history will take us there. Imagine **Slide 4** a city in the middle of the desert. **Slide 5** After an exhausting journey in a dry landscape, arid, **Slide 6** under an overwhelming heat, the travelers **Slide 7** discover a pretty city **Slide 8** in a green oasis with springs, **Slide 9** palm trees, **Slide 10** fruit trees, a pleasant temperature, **Slide 11** comfortable houses. They arrive in **Slide 12** Jericho, the perfect place to quench your thirst, **Slide 13** refresh yourself, **Slide 14** rest; Jericho, the dream city! In Jesus' time, many **Slide 15** rich people lived there. There were also unhappy people like this man whose story we are going to tell. You will see, sometimes a meeting is enough, an occasion that we grab that makes everything change. But, I'm not telling you more. Pay close attention and you can answer the question: **Slide 16** Why did Bartimaeus keep shouting?

Slide 17 THE BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Slide 18 The city of Jericho is surrounded by walls. To enter or leave it, you must pass through its imposing doors. He there is **Slide 19** a continual coming and going of men, women, children, merchants, visitors from foreign countries. There are **Slide 20** also animals, caravans of camels heavily loaded with all kinds of goods, donkeys and sheep. In short, **Slide 21** lots of colors, smells, noises, agitation.

Slide 22 A man sits there by the road side near the gate, that's his usual place:

- I hope passers-by will be generous, he says to himself. If they could give me a few coins that would allow me to buy a small piece of bread and maybe a piece of cheese, or a few figs. Oh! He doesn't get much, but it's the only way for him to have enough to get some food:

Slide 23 - Please! Please! Sir! Madam! a small coin! Please! Have mercy on a poor blind man!

This is what he repeats all day long, holding out his hand **Slide 24** towards the strangers he hears walking, talking, discussing, arguing sometimes. **Slide 25** They rarely pay attention to

him because he's not interesting. He is dirty and even rather repulsive with his old torn coat. They jostle him and rebuff him. **Slide 26** From time to time, someone says "Hello!" speaks a few words of comfort or **Slide 27** throws a coin in his beggar's bowl, giving him a little courage. **Slide 28** For years, Bartimaeus lives miserably, spending his days waiting for a generous person to have mercy on him. He waits and waits again for the day to pass, and **Slide 29** tomorrow it will be the same.

Slide 30 Oh! He has time to ponder on everything he hears from this noisy crowd. He learns the news, what is happening **Slide 31** in Jericho, but also **Slide 32** in Jerusalem and in the surrounding villages.

There is a name that keeps coming back often in conversations **Slide 33** it is Jesus. People talk about the miracles he does, about the anger of religious leaders who are jealous. Some believe in him, others say "*he's an impostor, he deceives the people*", but those who have been healed say "*He is the messiah! Glory, glory to God!*"

All this interests Bartimaeus. **Slide 34** He thinks. Miracles, but only God can do miracles! Would **Slide 35** Jesus be the one God promised to send? Would he be the messiah, the promised savior?

Slide 36 - Ah! If only He could come here, he sighs, **Slide 37** I believe He would heal me too, but He's not in Jericho!

Slide 38 That day, he suddenly hears a hubbub that makes him think that a large crowd is approaching. He asks the first passers-by:

Slide 39 - What's going on? I hear a lot of people coming, what a noise!

Slide 40 - It is Jesus of Nazareth who is arriving with a large crowd following him! Explains somebody.

Jesus of Nazareth! These words swirl in his head.

Slide 41 - Jesus! Jesus! Have mercy on me! He exclaims immediately.

- Oh! But who's that noisy guy, say some. Won't he stop screaming like that!

Slide 42 - Hey! You! Haven't you finished! Stop!

Slide 43 - Shut up! That's enough! Miserable that you are! Can't you be quiet!

Slide 44 - If you don't stop, we'll have a word with you!

Slide 45 They rebuff him, threaten him to make him stop, but nothing helps. Bartimaeus cries louder and louder

Slide 46 - Jesus! Jesus! I know you are the promised savior, have mercy on me!

He is determined to take this opportunity to ask Him for help. No one can stop him.

Slide 47 - Jesus, Jesus! Jesus of Nazareth! Have mercy on me.

Slide 48 Jesus hears the cries of the unhappy man. He stops.

Slide 49 - Bring him over! He says.

The message is passed on to the blindman:

Slide 50 - Take courage, Bartimaeus! Get up Jesus is calling you!

Slide 51 With a leap, the blind man gets up, throws away his old beggar's coat and rushes to Jesus.

Slide 52 - What do you want me to do for you? Jesus asks him

Slide 53 - Lord! Make me see, heal me!

Slide 54 - You will have what you have asked of me, Jesus answers. Because you believe that I can do it, I will heal you.

At this moment, **Slide 55** Bartimaeus can see. The miracle occurs in response to his faith.

Will he now return to his miserable life? **Slide 56** No! He joins the crowd following Jesus and all together, **Slide 57** they continue their journey praising and **Slide 58** glorifying God who works wonders.

Slide 59 **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Slide 60 *You saw how they wanted to prevent Bartimaeus from asking Jesus to help him, but he was not discouraged.* **Slide 61** *He kept on and on still shouting, begging, despite the nasty words and threats.*

Why? **Slide 62** *Why did Bartimaeus continue to yell? Because he believed Jesus was the promised Savior. He was convinced that* **Slide 63** *Jesus had the power to heal him, to get him out of his sad situation. It is because of his faith that Jesus answered him and healed him.*

Slide 64 *This story is really an encouragement for you and for me. Do not let us stop or get discouraged. Let us keep on believing in Jesus and praying to him.*

I suggest that you reread this account in chapter 10 of the Gospel of Mark.

Slide 65 **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

We all meet people who want to discourage us, stop us in our walk with the Lord. Bartimaeus' example is a strong encouragement to persevere against all odds.

Slide 66 *Our perseverance will be up to our faith.*

By reminding our children of this story, by sharing with them our experiences of perseverance, we help them deal with difficult times.

Slide 67