Sermon: **“Jesus! Son of David! Take pity on me!”** (Mark 10.47)

Hands up those who have, or have had, issues with eyesight. (eg blindness, glasses, cataracts, etc)

With modern medicine/surgery, most can see fairly well; few are blind. Why was Bartimaeus blind?

His cry of “I want to see again” (v 51) suggests some illness or accident.

Maybe he was once productive in society, but now at the bottom of the heap, dependent on handouts.

TEXT – what did he hope for? Did he ask for help from everyone who passed by? Did he want money?

It is interesting to know what he understood about Jesus.

* Jesus of Nazareth. There were many Jesus’s. Jericho c55 miles away (cf Invercargill to Lumsden).
Who knows Jim from Lumsden? So Jesus must have been famous.
* Famous as a healer (maybe more).
* Son of David – Mark wants us to realise this as a Messianic title. Bartimaeus grasped who Jesus was.

It is more interesting to note that the crowd do not seem to understand Jesus that way.

Later on religious leaders do not understand Jesus, and often the disciples did not – see James and John in the preceding passage.

Also note, the irony – the blind man can see, but the sighted cannot see! ‘There are none so blind as those who will not see’. Phrase is first attested in the United States in the 1713 ‘Works of Thomas Chalkley’. The full saying continues: ‘The most deluded people are those who choose to ignore what they already know’.

What Bartimaeus knew could have been worked out by others – but they chose to ignore it.

We may not *fully* understand Jesus, even Bartimaeus did not, but in our need we can cry out TEXT.

Surely if Jesus is that Jesus he will offer his help to us that, like Bartimaeus, we may follow him.