

Cast Off Your Beggar's Garment

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Blind Bartimaeus was identified as a beggar by his garment. He hears that Jesus is coming and screams "Jesus, have mercy on me" until he got Jesus' attention. Jesus said "tell him to come here".

Mark 10:50 - And he, casting away his beggar's garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

The first thing Bartimaeus does when Jesus tells him to come is cast off the garment that identifies him as a beggar, and he went to Jesus.

- As Christians we have beggars garment that need to be cast off if we are going to be used by God.
- We must cast off our trust in men. Human beings come and go.
- **We serve a living and all powerful God, and we need to act like it.**

Jeremiah 17:5-8 - This is what the Lord says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord. They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land (where nothing grows). "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. **Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.**

- When our hearts trust in the "arm of man", we remove our trust in the Lord.
- No human being can offer you hope for the future.
- God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. (Revelation 1:8)
- We have roots that reach deep into the waters. To sustain us, and to reach those around us. (Jeremiah 17:8)

"What would happen in our nation, if Christians exercised 1/10th of the passion they exhibited in the Presidential election, to build the kingdom of God, love and lead people to Christ?"

- **We have no enemies in the flesh, people are captives if they are far from God.**

The apostle Paul had a love and a passion for those without Christ.

Romans 9:1-3 – O Israel, my people! O my Jewish brothers! How I long for you to come to Christ. My heart is heavy within me, and I grieve bitterly day and night because of you. Christ knows and the Holy Spirit knows that it is no mere pretense when I say that I would be willing to be forever damned if that would save you. (TLB)

- Saul was a murderer before he became Paul.
- God wants us to “Sauls” and make them “Pauls”.
- **God cannot do this without His people loving those without Christ.**

The greatest way to control a populous is through fear. We are called to win our battles in the spiritual realm.

The early church was fearless when threatened with persecution.

Acts 4:8-13 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a lame man and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

- We must cast off the beggar’s garment of fear.

The early church was filled with power when threatened.

Acts 4:29-31 - Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- Let’s not exchange the power of God for anger.
- Cast off the beggar’s garment of a powerless life.

The early church was generous even when threatened.

Acts 4:32-33 - All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

The Roman emperor Nero had Christians murdered, crucified and burned, but the church still made ways to come together.

Hebrews 10:25 – We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.

- Throw off the beggar's garment of living in a moment of a temporal world, when we serve an eternal God.