



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

# Getting The Attention of Jesus

*Biblical References We Can Learn From*



Jesus had a very hectic schedule, constantly dealing with the throngs of people that bombarded him daily looking for one thing or another. Yet, the Bible notes that there were those who managed to get the attention of Jesus despite the pressure of the crowds. There were also some key requirements He laid down for His disciples to follow.

This series we will be looking at a few of these 'attention getters', studying what we can learn from them and practical steps we can take to apply this to our lives.

I pray this study blesses you, positively impacts every aspect of your life and stirs up a hunger for God in you.



## Day 1 The Faith Factor

'But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Luke 8:46

Jesus was on his way to resurrect the daughter of a ruler and he was surrounded by throngs of people – a fairly normal occurrence for him. Then something happened, he felt power leave him and he stopped until he found out what had happened.

"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' " Mark 5:31

While his disciples didn't understand what was going on, Jesus knew someone had activated divine healing, even without his active involvement. The woman with the issue of blood came forward and admitted what she had done.

But the healing didn't happen just because she touched the hem of his garment, after all he was crowded by people and no one else had initiated that kind of reaction in Him. The secret to her healing is shown to us here: "...because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Mark 5:28

She followed Jesus, got close to him and touched the hem of his cloak by faith, because she believed that doing so would bring her healing. And it did.

It's not enough to come to Jesus, we must come to Him by faith believing that he can and will do what we are reaching out to Him for. In spite of all the miracles Jesus did during His ministry, he couldn't do many in His own hometown because they didn't have faith.

'Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.' Matthew 13:58

Meaning it is possible to approach Jesus and not experience anything if we do not come by faith.

**Reflect:** Jesus saw the woman's faith – which means faith can be seen in action. Are your prayers aligned with your actions?



## Day 2

### Spiritual Insight

'So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.'" Mark 10:49

The dictionary defines 'sight' as the faculty or power of seeing and insight as, 'the capacity to gain an accurate and deep understanding of someone or something.' The character we're looking at today is called Bartimaeus. He is described as 'blind Bartimaeus' in the Bible, which suggests that he must have been blind for quite some time.

While Bartimaeus lacked sight, he had something a lot of people who could see didn't have – he had insight into who Jesus really was.

'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!"' Mark 10:47

Bartimaeus recognised that Jesus was the messiah, hence calling him 'Son of David' and because of this insight, he didn't let the discouragement from the crowd deter him. The more the crowd warned him to be quiet, the more he cried out. He knew the man he was calling out to wasn't an ordinary man and he refused to be deterred by the criticism of the multitude. The interesting thing is that when Jesus stopped and called for Bartimaeus, the same crowd who had warned him to be quiet now encouraged him to get up and go to Jesus.

In your walk with God, you will face a lot of critics who will ask you why you're doing what you're doing. "Why are you still praying when the answer hasn't come?" "Shouldn't you give up and try another alternative?" "Maybe God doesn't want to answer this prayer." Very likely you will hear some version of these comments and more. But don't give up. Remember who you're calling out to and persevere in the place of prayer and maintaining your relationship with God.

**Question:** Are you letting people's negative opinions and comments deter you from pursuing God's plan for your life? Remember, it's your life and your destiny at stake, not theirs.

## Day 3 Letting Go

'And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.' Mark 10:50

Still looking at Bartimaeus, when Jesus called him the first thing he did was to throw aside his garment. In ancient Israel, beggars wore certain garments to identify them and their needs/issues. When Jesus called Bartimaeus, the first thing he did even before getting up was to throw aside his beggar's garment. He believed that he would be healed and so would no longer require the garment.

He was also making a bold statement about letting go of the past. By throwing aside the garment, Bartimaeus was taking a step into a new destiny, a new life which would no longer involve sitting by the roadside begging. Don't forget that at this point Bartimaeus hadn't yet received his healing, yet he was ready not to go back to what his life had been up to that point.

'Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.' Mark 10:52

At once they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus. Matthew 18:22

James and John the sons of Zebedee also did something similar when Jesus called them. They saw something that made them leave their now thriving family business and follow Jesus. Ask yourself – what did these men see?

**Question:** What did Bartimaeus see that caused him to dump his past even before he had received his healing? Ask God to open your eyes so you see what God has planned for your life.

## Day 4 Commitment

“...for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6(b)

The earthly ministry of Jesus was short in terms of number of years, but the impact is still being experienced thousands of years later. Jesus wasn't slothful or distracted, but diligent in executing His assignment. To the point that right from childhood he declared to Mary and Joseph that he must be about his father's business (Luke 2:49).

He showed us an example to follow in that we are also expected to work diligently in whatever assignment the Lord has given us to do. This is a principle that impacts not just ministry but all aspects of our lives.

'Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.' Proverbs 22:29

Are you skilled in your work? Are you diligent and do you pursue excellence in what has been handed over to you to take care of? Or do you do the barest minimum and expect God to bless you regardless of your poor effort?

When it comes to your prayer life what sort of habits do you have? We see in the book of Daniel that Daniel prayed three times a day as was his custom/habit (Daniel 6:10). Jesus was noted for his prayer life, praying a great while before day (Mark 1:35). Jesus prayed not just before major events, but also withdrawing afterwards to reconnect with God and regain strength. His lifestyle was one of commitment to prayer regardless of what was going on around Him.

**Reflect:** Do you focus your energy on prayer only to get something? What do you do after you have received what you're asking God for? Do you still remain in the place of diligent prayer and fellowship?

## Day 5 Tenacity

'But hold fast what you have till I come. ' Revelation 2:25

Jesus was very clear in telling us that our walk with Him is for the long-haul, crossing over from this lifetime into eternity. However, it is what we do while here on earth that impacts how we will live in eternity. When we have eternity in mind, it should cause us to have a perspective of sustaining a walk with God for the long haul, circumstances and situations notwithstanding.

In Revelations, Jesus is speaking to the churches and he shares the rewards He has for those who hold on to His teachings, way of living and relationship with Him right to the end. These are the ones He calls 'overcomers'. Overcoming isn't a one-off event, rather it's a lifelong journey of consistently gaining victory over and over again.

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Will there be times when you make mistakes? Will situations occur that will make you feel like giving up? Yes, there definitely will. However, when mistakes are made the overcomer doesn't settle down in the place of error, rather the overcomer repents, seeks God's forgiveness and mercy and forges ahead. When situations seem to want to cripple your faith the overcomer stands strong on the word of God. And standing doesn't have to be alone, that's why it's important to have a community of people you can call on to help pray with/for you.

As Paul said, we need to press on toward the goal of living a fruitful and productive life here on earth and spending eternity with Jesus.

**Reflect:** How often do you consider eternity? Or is your focus only on your earthly needs? What you do now greatly impacts where and how you will spend your eternity. Time is a gift, use it well so it has positive eternal impact for you and yours.

## Day 6

### Love

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

When Jesus gave the commandment to love, He gave them a template to follow. They were to love others as He had loved them. In spite of being their Lord and Teacher, Jesus served His disciples and makes it clear that’s the kind of lifestyle they were to live.

'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.' John 13:14

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26-28

Nowadays, it isn’t necessary to wash one another’s feet, but Jesus still expects to express our love in serving one another. He made it very clear that the way to grow in Him is in serving others. We are not to focus on our own needs alone, but to find ways to be a blessing to others.

How do you do this on a day-to-day basis? The first thing to understand that it’s not only when a person preaches or share Bible references that the love of Jesus can be shared. Wherever it is you find yourself is an opportunity for you to serve, be a blessing and share the love of Jesus in a real and practical way. Show care for your environment and the people around you. Be a diligent and honest person of good character. Then people will be drawn to want to know more about who you are and the God you serve.

**Action Step:** List 5 ways you can show love to your family, friends, co-workers. Then do them consistently without looking or asking for recognition or reward.





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