

A photograph of a field of orange poppies in a field of tall grass. The poppies are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of similar flowers and grass under a bright sky.

From Surviving To Thriving

LINDA P. JONES

**Women of Worth Mentorship
Academy**

Linda P Jones Ministries - Equipping Women for Life and Ministry

Women of Worth Mentorship Academy - WOWMA - Healing, Equipping, Restoring to Serve

FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

BLIND BARTIMAEUS

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FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

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Dear Student

It is one thing to survive and it's another to thrive. Don't get me wrong, to survive takes stamina, tenacity, courage... A survivor is a powerful individual; it tells me that that person is a champion, they had the courage to outlive the trial; they outlasted the betrayal, the loss of the relationship, the loss of the business, the broken marriage, and other circumstances that would have meant the demise for others. However, it is important that one takes the next step to thriving.

Blind Bartimaeus was a survivor, he survived by begging at the street corners. Then one day Jesus was passing by and he recognized an opportunity came for him to move ***From Surviving to Thriving***. Without hesitation he seized the moment and the trajectory of his life was changed forever.

If you are going to walk in your healing from past issues, you need to have the attitude Bartimaeus had, he was tired of just surviving, and did what it took for him to move to the next level to live a productive life – to thriving.

Are you ready to thrive?

Linda P. Jones (Rev. M.PTh)

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BLIND BARTIMAEUS

SESSION 1

*"Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 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!" Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 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." And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." 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 10:46-52***

1. Bartimaeus In Crisis

As Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road.
– **Mark 10:46**

Blind Bartimaeus sat by the roadside doing what he always did, begging, he heard, as Luke 18 states, a commotion, something exciting was happening around him and he asked what was going on and they told him that it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by.

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- This tells me that sometimes we are in situations we have no control over and we make the best of it, but once we know that there is an opportunity for a better way, there are those who would seize the occasion for freedom at all cost. Are you one of those?

2. He Cried Out In Desperation

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.

Unlike the man at the pool of Bethesda who was in his condition for 38 years, Bartimaeus was not content to stay in his situation. So he made commotion to get Jesus' attention.

Psalmist David said:

"I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah –Psalm 3:4

"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears. – Psalm 18:6

- Have you been crying out to the Lord? I want to assure you that He has heard your cry

3. The Crowd Tried to Stop Him

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Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" – 10:48

How desperate are you? Sometimes we let people's opinion of us stop us...or even the devil's imps talk us out of pursuing our going after our deliverance, not Bartimaeus, he cried out all the more; meaning he yelled out even louder. Bartimaeus persevered against opposition.

- If you are facing a crisis or any situation that limits you, you can run to the throne in desperation, do not let anyone stop you.

Hebrews 4:16 in The Passion Translations says, *"So now we come freely and boldly to where love is enthroned, to receive mercy's kiss and discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our time of weakness."*

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SESSION 2

1. Bartimaeus Caught Jesus' Attention and Caused Him to Cease walking

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." – 10:49

The ruckus Bartimaeus did caught Jesus' attention.

I am convinced that Jesus didn't hear Bartimaeus' voice as much as He heard his heart. Like the woman with the issue of blood, lots of people around touching Him, but Jesus felt her touch – it was different. There was something different about Bartimaeus' voice/cry. It was a cry of desperation!

- How desperate are you, would your cry cause Jesus to stop, would it catch His attention?

2. Jesus Called for Bartimaeus

And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. – 10:49

Bartimaeus persistence paid off; his desperate cries got Jesus' attention. "Bring him to me", He told the men, who most likely were the one trying to shut down Bartimaeus at first.

- God is sending people to get you.

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3. He Cast Aside His Garments

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

Bartimaeus discarding his beggar's uniform was an act of faith trusting that he would no longer need it. He recognized a new day was about to dawn for him, because one can't go into Jesus' presence and leave the same way. Bartimaeus anticipated a change of season in his life; he threw away all that was old, all that identified him with the past.

- Have you been in a dark place for a long time? Know that an encounter with Jesus that could change everything for you. Then it is important that or you be willing to discard the past so that you could access your future.
- If you are going to move from surviving to thriving you have to be prepared to let go of the past. If you are going to be ready to embrace what God has for you your hands have to be opened to release the past.

4. Jesus Asked the Classic Question

"So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" –

10:51a

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Jesus wanted to know what Bartimaeus wanted from Him. Do you want to be healed or do you want a handout? Jesus is the Healer but that may not be what Bartimaeus wanted.

One writer said that 'freedom must be claimed and participated in by the people themselves. You do not inject realities like this into people like penicillin. The victims must want to be different and be willing to participate in their own 'healing before any significant change can occur.'

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SESSION 3

1. Jesus Wanted Bartimaeus to Clarify His Request

"What do you want Me to do for you?" – 10:51a

Bartimaeus had already asked Jesus for mercy, (*"Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me"*), but Jesus wanted him to clarify how he wanted that mercy to be demonstrated.

- What is it that you **really** want? *What is the level of priority of your need?*

2. Bartimaeus Clearly Stated His Need

"The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." – 10:51b

In six words he clearly articulated his need. Bartimaeus knew if he could have his sight then he could be independent, he could work and provide the need for himself and even start a family. Bartimaeus was ready to take responsibility for his wholeness and to walk in it.

- Do you have to have a vision far beyond where you are at the moment? Do you envision yourself in a better place – walking in freedom, fulfilling the call of God on your life?

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- Could you clearly articulate what you really want? The Lord wants you to be honest with Him. You see what we refuse to reveal cannot be healed.

3. Bartimaeus Received Complete Healing

“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”. – **10:52**

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SESSION 4

BONUS POINT

1. Bartimaeus had Spiritual Clarity

When Bartimaeus asked what was going on, the people said it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by. Basically they were saying, “It is only that fella from that little obscure village at the edge of town nobody important.”

But Bartimaeus had a different perception of Him, He called out, “*Jesus Son of David have mercy me.*” He was physically blind but surely not spiritually blind. He called Jesus by His Messianic title. He was well aware what the scripture prophesied of the coming Messiah and what He would do.

“The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous” – Psalm 146:8

“The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped...” – Isaiah 35:5-6

- Your perception of Jesus qualifies you for what you receive from Him.
- Jesus asks you, “*What would you have me to do for you?* Before you answer decide if you are ready to take responsibility for your wholeness

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ACTIVATION EXERCISES

1. As soon as Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, he showed his desperation to connect with Jesus. How desperate are you? Describe it.
2. The crowd tried to stop Bartimaeus; they tried to silence him, but he cried out all the more. Identify some things that are trying to silence your cries for help?
3. When Jesus called Bartimaeus, he eagerly cast aside his beggar's garments, arose and went to Him. What do you need to cast aside in order so that you could arise and go to Jesus?
4. What aspect(s) of your life do you want back?
5. Are you ready to take responsibility for moving from where you are at? What things can you do to demonstrate that you are emotionally and physically ready to move?

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About Linda Jones

Rev. Linda Jones is an ordained minister, an expository Bible teacher, speaker, and an author of several books that are geared to bring healing and empowerment to families and the Body of Christ. She also pastored a ministry for several years. Linda is passionate about teaching and equipping individuals so that they are released to walk in freedom, healing and wholeness and empowered to fulfil their God-given dreams. She does this through the various ministries she has founded: – Linda P. Jones Ministries, Women of Worth Ministries and the Women of Worth Mentorship Academy (WOWMA).

Rev. Linda has hosted seminars, workshops, conferences and productions, and is a sought after speaker. Linda is very personable in her teaching style; she teaches with depth, yet is easy to understand; overall she does not compromise the truth of God's Word.

Linda is a doctoral candidate and holds a Master of Practical Theology from Master's International University of Divinity, Evansville, Indiana, U.S.A, and a Bachelor of Theology from Christian International School, Santa Rosa Beach Florida U.S.A.

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