

Jesus of Nazareth Passeth By  
Stern.

Great men - Life encompassed - Lives for many

I. Christ came to Jericho - Shorts of multitudes  
does strike - eagerness - Text says Passing-  
story

II. Bartimaeus called - asked Mercy - meaning  
- Multitude said stop - Try to stop us - Some  
one near you - Prize - Don't be discouraged.

III. Jesus stood still - Be of good comfort - arise -  
any one who crieth - <sup>Pentecostal</sup> God hear any time -

IV. Bartimaeus casts away his garments  
Flower - If we do not cast - Prefers Christ -  
Christ will give anything - what wilt -  
Received double blessing -

application

Bartimaeus an emblem

Sight of blind person - Spiritually blind  
Like Bartimaeus - thinks of self -  
what a condition - Oh cry of spiritual malady

Receiv sight made light - See ~~Christ~~  
See themselves. Look over stony road -  
chain - oh tears - See Jesus truly

See smile of approval - throwing -

Glorious sights through new light.

) Like Bartimaeus become followers -

Christ as leader - Captain - Shepherd

Bartimaeus followed for love

Christians follow - morality - worship - Bapt.

To enjoy Christian life Sing - Once

Tell brother - household - March

with banner.

- Con -

To follow Christ is safe, honorable  
pleasant, comfortable, profitable  
makes life bright, habitation

Closing earthly

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Passeth By.

By  
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at Pease March '96.)

Selby,

1st. - Allen's Corners School House

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Mark x-46-52.

If we read carefully the history of the lives of all the great men of our country, we shall find that the success they achieved was due to their recognizing the value of seizing and using the present opportunities. oft times cruel fortune seemed for the time to blast all hopes of reaching the pinnacle of success. Yet by perseverance, by long suffering, and hard battle, the victory was theirs. Life is encompassed by difficulties, and especially when we are thinking of joining the ranks of Christ's army. And we can only hope to be the conqueror by instantly seizing each opportunity that presents itself, even though it may seem small and worthless. Each little thing unites with others, and the combined forces ~~wake~~, bring us an abundant success. We are prepared for longer usefulness in the future, by making use of the present opportunities.

There are times for everything in this life. God's hand has so fashioned this universe, that every thing moves with wonderful harmony. Seasons come and go. For each cloud of woe, there is a corresponding beam of sunshine; for each tear there is a smile; for each death there is a life. One species dies only to be followed by another, nobler and more useful. We

are told that there is a time to weep and a  
time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep  
silence, and a time to speak; a time to love and  
a time to hate. And to this might rightly be  
added, and a time to be saved.

The first verse of our text says that Christ  
came to Jericho. To the casual reader there is  
no special significance to these words, and yet  
in them is a truth which we should know and  
make ~~it~~ a practical help. For its solemnity  
should impress us, if nothing else.

During our Saviour's ministry it is not known  
that he came to, or near Jericho, but this once.  
He may have, but it is not likely that he did.

And here is the lesson. Perhaps to-night you  
have reached the Jericho of your life. If the Saviour  
has never come your way before, he is coming  
to-night. The shouts of the multitude ere now  
can be heard. Some one has asked, what  
meant all this confusion, and the answer  
comes back loud and clear. "Jesus of Nazareth  
Passeth By." Does this announcement strike no  
responsible chord within the deep recesses of  
your heart? Is there no eagerness in your  
heart to see him; to have him touch you?  
Does his name cause no memories of child-  
hood's innocence to rush through your sin-  
stained mind? Is it all indifference to you  
concerning your soul's eternal salvation?

Do you not realize the awfulness of your situation, can you not see that you are nearing a precipice, can you not see the jaws of hell yawning in front of you? Can you not see that the good ship "salvation" is nearly abreast with you, soon it shall have passed for ever.

Remember the cry "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He is not going to stay for awhile near you, nor is he even going to halt. Soon he shall have passed beyond your sight, beyond your hearing. The story is told of some men rowing down a river upon which a falls was situated not many miles from where they were rushing on with the tide. Some one shouted from the bank "The falls! the falls! turn back or you will be dashed to pieces. But their answer was, oh, there is no hurry we are no where near the falls yet, when we see our danger then we <sup>will</sup> turn to the side and land. This peasant current will help us wonderfully on our journey.

Before they had gone very far, they turned a sharp angle in the river and behold there was the falls directly in front of them. They pulled with all their might, but in vain, the current was too strong, and they

were dashed to pieces. You have been  
gliding down the river of life, carried on by  
the current of evil associates, and worldly  
enticements. So rapid has been your progress,  
and so blinded have you been by the dazzling  
scenery that you have not noticed the land  
marks. Love of a Christian mother has been  
passed; tears of a loving sister have been  
passed; the yearnings and pleadings of the  
fondest hearts have been passed. And as you  
have been whirled from the sight of all these  
by the on rushing tide of sin, and the  
memory of their words and tears only brings  
a smile of contempt to your lips, behold!  
Jericho looms up before your eyes in the distance.  
Once, only a speck in the distance, but each  
moment it grows plainer. ah! you are there.  
And from the walls of that city, the Saviour sees  
your peril, and warns you to stop.  
Will you heed his warning. Jericho is your  
salvation, for the Saviour is there. ~~I~~ may  
never stand before you again and tell you  
that Jesus of Nazareth is Passing By."

In the text we are told that Bartimaeus sat  
by the way side begging. And being told that  
Jesus was passing by, he cried Jesus, thou  
son of David, have mercy on me. This man  
realized that Jesus would not remain long

and he cried with the voice of a man whose last hope was deserting him. He knew that this was his only chance, and if he did not seize it, he must remain in darkness forever. Oh, that every one before me to-night, might follow the example of Bartimaeus and call upon the Saviour while he is near, for he may never pass through your country again.

He asked for mercy. What more beautiful <sup>things</sup> could we ask Christ for. From Christ, mercy means everything - peace, happiness, joy and love. Will you ask Jesus for mercy to-night? You will have a chance to. Will you anchor your soul in Christ, the harbor of rest?

And the multitude tried to stop him from crying out for Christ, but he was not to be stopped. His very soul was aroused within him as a dying man clutches at a straw, so he clutched at this hope of life. When we hear Jesus' voice speaking to us, and we try to call out to him, there are always those about us to prevent us. Satan's ambassadors are about us everywhere. They are omnipresent. Every pure thought is tampered by them. What we mean to be words of kindness are turned to bitterness. Whatever we would, we do not, and what we would not, that we do. Perhaps

to-night you have cried out voice for Christ,  
and some one beside you has said, hold your  
peace. You might as well be dead as be a  
Christian. We can't have any more drunks  
together in the saloon, if you go and become  
a Christian. Take my advice, and don't be  
foolish. If such has not been spoken to you,  
have not such thoughts come to you. Now  
here is a chance for your first victory over  
sin; here is your chance for the first step  
into a new life. Here is a test for your  
moral courage. You do not want to be called  
a moral coward any more than you do a  
physical coward, do you? Any prize obtained by  
hard work is appreciated much more. If you  
gain Christ and Heaven by a hard victory  
over Satan, how sweet will be the joy and  
refuge after the mists of the battle have been  
cleared away. If the fight has been long, how  
glorious will the victory be. How sweet it  
will be to look the Saviour in the face, as  
with that loving smile, he places his hand in  
loving benediction upon our heads, and we hear  
his sweet voice whispering loving words of approval.  
Do not be discouraged if some one tries to  
keep you away from Christ by physical force.  
Try again and the result will more than

repay you for the labor.

"and Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. And they said to Bartimaeus "Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee."

The victory is won, the Saviour has heard him cry and answers him. Every one who calls upon Christ, and he answers, has every reason to be of good comfort. For when Christ answers us, it is a conclusive evidence of his everlasting love for us. It is a comfort to any one to be loved by man, ~~but~~<sup>how</sup> what a joy to be loved by Christ, whose love means every<sup>and</sup> thing, both temporal and spiritual

Any one who cries unto God with a voice of faith, will be answered. And whatsoever we should that he should do unto us, that will be gladly and cheerfully done. The penitent voice, <sup>the</sup> depths of a sinners broken heart, moves the Saviour's pity, and a fountain of Divine love and compassion is poured out upon us. Our wounds caused by the weapons of Satan, are dressed and healed by the balm of his divine peace. Our thirsty souls are refreshed by the living water from his eternal spring. Joy unspeakable descended from <sup>you</sup> heavenly heights, with his words of welcome

and good cheer. God will

God will hear our cry at any time and from any place. If it be in the dark hours of midnight, when every thing but the thief is wrapped in slumber, or whether it be at the house of God, our cry of anguish will be heard. Every place from which we seek the Lord, that is holy ground, and Christ's sanctuary. If we sit by the roadside and beg alms, and see our poverty, look up to Christ, that ground made loathsome to our fellow men even by our presence, becomes pure. For Christ is there, and where Christ is nothing defiling can enter.

And Bartimaeus casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. His upper garment was undoubtedly of little worth, as he was a beggar, so he probably threw it away that he might be less impeded, and might reach Christ <sup>more quickly</sup>. When the voice of Jesus in response to our cry says "Come." We should make all possible speed to reach him. But let us leave behind us the filthy rags of our poverty. Let us bring nothing unclean into his presence. What was once pure and white, we through sin have made unclean. Let us leave behind the beggarly robe of unrighteousness, and enter into his presence nakedly, for his righteousness. Let us put off the old man

of our former selves, and let Christ fashion us anew. Let him put us in the furnace of righteousness that we may be melted, and moulded again, into a perfect image. There is a flower which grows near the mines of Pennsylvania, which it is said is not spoiled or destroyed by the black dust, for its leaves seem to be covered by a sort of enamel upon which the dust has no effect. This is the kind of a robe Christ will clothe us with, when we come to him, one which cannot be harmed by the corroding, sinful substance, with which we are surrounded.

If we do not cast away our old garments - , and using this figuratively, I mean old habits, old and evil associates, worldly lusts, all that is degrading and harmful to a pure life - if we do not cast these aside, they are going to be a hindrance to our true service. Nothing of the devil's, can enter God's courts.

Christ reveals to us a better righteousness than our own. We see ourselves that it is purer than ours, why should we wish to defile it? He has called us from the bonds of poverty, to sit among Princes, and to the inheritance of an eternal Throne of glory, why should we wish to bring even the memory of our former estate with us. Let us turn our backs upon the dark past, and look not back!

If we are in trouble or are vexed by the  
cares of this life, let us look to Christ, for  
from him cometh righteousness, peace, pardon,  
life and salvation.

Christ will give us any thing that is for  
our good. So he was willing to do any thing  
for Bartimaeus and said "What wilt thou  
that I should do unto thee". Showing his entire  
willingness. But Bartimaeus did not want  
worldly possessions. Like the leper, gold to him  
was a mockery. He realized what he needed  
most, and that through faith in Christ's  
power to create, he asked for in these words  
"Lord that I might receive my sight"

For many long weary years he had begged  
for the necessaries of life, he might have  
asked for these, and undoubtedly would,  
had he been like many beggars of our  
days, who are too lazy to work for an  
honest living. But, he was not that kind.  
He had been forced to beg because he was

blind, and now that a chance was offered  
not only of receiving his sight, but also through  
that, being enabled to work for his bread, prompted  
him to ask Christ for his sight, which he  
received at the hands of Christ as a  
reward of his faith in the Saviour's power,

Barthamus received a double blessing, for he not only received his bodily sight, but also his spiritual. If he had not first received his spiritual sight, he would not have gained his bodily. Consequently he was saved both in soul and body, by his faith in Christ as the messiah, the Son of David.

This man Barthamus whom we have been noticing for a short time ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> an emblem of the people of God before, at, and after conversion. Let us consider him in that light briefly.

If there is any sight which thrills our hearts with pity, and tempts us to an act of charity, it is that of a blind person.

It is a sad sight and causes us many heart aches. Many times have I passed through the streets of New York, and beheld upon the street corners, those of both sexes who have either never seen the light of day, or from whom it has forever departed.

There they sit in darkness, never enjoying God's beautiful sunshine, or the beautiful green fields, or any of the beautiful things in nature which God has given us to enjoy and to make us happy. How many times have

I thought while standing and looking into those sightless eyes, oh! if Jesus were only here now, and could touch those eyes, what rejoicing there would be. Their whole earthly lives are one long night. And few, ~~experience~~ any thing but darkness either in circumstances, or vision. We regard it terrible for one to be in such condition, but how much more terrible it is for one to be spiritually blind, for then is not only darkness here, but eternity will be one long night if that blindness is not cured.

Those who do not know Christ are like Bartimaeus, for as he was blind so are they. They are spiritually sightless, and cannot see God in Christ the Saviour. They are without any true sight of sin. Good and bad all look alike to them. They cannot see themselves as sinners. I once heard of a man who thought so much of himself that he used to shake hands with himself every morning. He was blinded by his own pride. And I believe there are a great many just like him. They are so blinded by self, that they cannot see Christ as their Saviour, they cannot see ~~the~~ the need they stand in, of him.

oh, what a condition to be in! One who does not believe in God or Christ is certainly an object of pity. To think that in this enlightened age, men are actually in as hopeless a condition, right in our midst, as the black man of the undiscovered regions of Africa. There are men to-day who have heard the story of Jesus Christ for years, and yet are so totally blind, that they cannot see that they, chief among sinners, need his pardon and salvation.

Oh that they might cry out because of their spiritual malady, as Bartimaeus did. And only the power of Jesus Christ can remove them of their blindness. If to night you know that you are blind in spirit, call unto Jesus as he passes you by to night, and let him remove <sup>the</sup> obstacle from your vision.

Those who become converted are like Bartimaeus for they receive their sight from Christ, just as he did. They are made light in the Lord, and become the children of a new day. They have been groping on in the blackness of midnight, and endless

night has clouded their pathway, but now  
a new light, like the dawning of the morning,  
has broken in upon their soul. Things  
that before were mysterious and caused  
doubting, now seem clear and simple  
in the light of Christ's sunshine.

Now in their enlightened state they can  
see their sad and ruinous state; the  
pollution of their heart; the sinfulness of  
their thoughts, as well as their actions.

As they look back <sup>upon</sup> the stony road  
over which they have come, they discover  
one not far from it, smooth, green and  
strewn with flowers by the way side. This  
is God's high-way of holiness over which  
they might have traveled thus far in life,  
if they had only been able to see. And  
looking ahead they see the yawning chasm  
into which they soon would have plunged,  
had not divine light come into their  
lives. With what sorrow do they look back  
upon their misspent lives. Oh, the tears  
of anguish they might have saved; oh,  
the vows they might have kept, oh, the  
hearts they might have cheered. But the

tempests of the old day are fast passing,  
and under the influence of the sunshine of  
spiritual vision, they begin to see life in all  
its realities. They realize that only now are  
they truly living. They can see Jesus our Blessed  
Saviour in all the beauty of holiness, in  
his all sufficiency, recognizing his perfection  
and love, the fulness of his grace and his  
boundless mercy. They see that salvation  
is a free gift through his blood, and that  
eternal glory and happiness is secured  
through <sup>him</sup> for them. They can look into the  
very realms of Heaven, and see the Saviour  
there in smiling approval, and it is  
from his face that this sunshine of the  
new day is beaming. A sunshine which  
enters their soul, and warming the cold  
recesses of the heart, which have been almost  
frozen by sin, their sympathy and love is  
thawed out, and they are able to bestow it.  
What glories we behold when our sight  
is given us by Christ.

And these they are like Bartimaeus,  
after conversion, because when he received  
his sight from Christ he followed him.

So the people of God being enlightened by Christ follow him as their leader and commander, as the captain of their salvation, as the shepherd of their flock, as the light of the world. Bartimaeus followed probably from a sense of love for him who had done him so great a service, and probably that he might be a testimony of Christ's power, to others.

Every true Christian follows Christ in the duties of morality, in the way of public instituted worship. After he has found the Saviour he will follow him in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. It is the teaching of God, that we publicly confess Christ before men in Baptism.

Now to follow Christ and gain much from the Christian life, is to work for him. Tell to the world that you are a soldier of the cross, tell them how happy you are in your new condition. Sing from the depths of your heart "Once I was blind, but now I can see; the light of the world is Jesus." Tell your brother of Jesus try and convince him of the Saviour's love. Be not satisfied until your whole household are safe in the fold of the Redeemer.

Where ever you go uphold the banner of  
your Saviour. Uplift the banner high  
and wide, march into the land of  
infidelity with it flying gloriously and by the  
name of him who owns it, plant it upon  
the hill of victory.

To follow Christ in the way of duty is safe,  
honorable, pleasant, comfortable, and profitable.  
It makes this life bright and cheerful, and  
will gain hereafter a habitation not made by  
hands; in that city whose builder and maker  
is God.

My closing exhortation is Jesus of Nazareth  
is passing by. Will you call out to him  
in your blindness, that he may hear you,  
heal you, and cause you to live.