



Bartimaeus sees Easter

A Drama or Blog



Note: Bartimaeus was healed of his blindness as Jesus was travelling through Jericho to Jerusalem for his last Passover. The chances are that he immediately followed Jesus down the road to Jerusalem. Having been blind since birth, Bartimaeus would have seen all the events of Easter with a fresh perspective. This drama was originally used within a family service where it was interspersed with songs and readings (as indicated in small print). We started with a dance group miming Ishmaels' song 'Bartimaeus'. Adapt and edit as you feel led. Then share! We'd love to hear about it.

Song: We believe in God the Father

Introduction

Mime: "Bartimaeus"

Narrator

And so Bartimaeus followed Jesus down the road - to Jerusalem!

Bartimaeus wasn't the only person who was happy, although he had more reason to be than most. It was Passover - holiday time, and the occasion of the big festival when all of Israel remembered how God had saved them from Egypt and set them free from slavery. As the crowds flocked to Jerusalem to celebrate, the whole atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. There was an even greater air of expectation this year because everyone had heard that Jesus had arrived in Jerusalem.

Song It's a wonderful feeling (All, with very simple dance)

Bartimaeus

Triumphant entry

Wow, this is really something else. The Temple is really amazing. I'll never forget my first glimpse of it, with the sun glittering on the gold of the Temple roof. I've been all round Jerusalem 3 times now looking at everything. Jesus is just down the road having a meal with some friends of His - Mary, Martha & Lazarus. At least He was, because rumours are starting to circulate that 2 of His disciples have been seen walking back down the road with a donkey. Well everyone knows that Jesus goes everywhere on foot, so the word is that He's going to come out into the open and claim to be the Messiah by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the prophecies say He will. So I'm off to find out - there seems to be something going on over in the distance but I can't see properly from here. I can hear some cheering though!

Reading: Luke 19 v.36-40

Songs: Blessed be the King who comes (All, with children waving 'branches')

Hosanna, hosanna;

You are the King of Glory

**Holy Week**

I've been having the time of my life. There's so much happening. Jesus is the most incredible person to be around. On Monday, I followed Him up to the Temple. Now I must admit, I had a bit of a shock when I first went there and saw all the buying and selling that went on. It didn't seem quite right somehow. But when Jesus arrived, He got really angry and started throwing the traders off the premises. He's really got some nerve! I asked Thomas, one of His disciples if He wouldn't get into trouble with the authorities. Oh yes, he said, but then He's in plenty of trouble with them already. They'd love to get rid of Him, but they're afraid of the crowd, and to be honest I think they're also afraid of Jesus Himself.

One group tried to stone Him once and He walked clean away. Mind you, he'll come a cropper one of these days if He isn't careful, he said.

Well I think Thomas is wrong. I think Jesus is well able to take care of Himself. I've been sitting listening to Him teach in the Temple. I never realised He was such an amazing storyteller. I've never heard anyone like Him. He's been healing more blind and lame people too. In fact I've made friends with a few of them. We've set up camp out on the hillside together. People around here have been very good at giving us food, those of us who haven't much. People are usually more generous at Passover time. I used to notice that when I had to beg. Jesus' disciples are a good bunch too - they've told some of the locals who I am and asked them to make sure I was okay for meals. There's only one of them I don't like. Judas, I think they call him. You develop a second sense for sussing people out when you're blind, and I know I shouldn't say this about one of Jesus' closest friends, but there's something about him I don't trust. I'm sure he's up to something.

Thursday

They're all going into the city tonight to start celebrating Passover. The main festivities don't start until tomorrow when 'the Passover lambs are sacrificed. I'm really looking forward to celebrating Passover this year. I'm sure it's going to mean more to me than it ever has before.

Readings: Psalm 55 v.12-14

John 18 v.12-14

John 19 v.1-3 & 14-22

Bartimaeus Good Friday

I can't believe what's happening. Everything's happened so fast. None of Jesus' party returned to Bethany last night. Well that in itself was nothing to worry about - until 9 of His disciples came creeping back into the village around dawn. I just love watching the sunrise, so I was taking a stroll. They nearly jumped out of their skin when I yelled good morning. It turned out that they'd been in the Garden of Gethsemane at around midnight when Judas had appeared with the Temple guard and they'd arrested Jesus. Peter and John were nowhere to be found so they assumed the authorities had got them too. They were too frightened to go back into Jerusalem to find out what was happening, so finally I set off on my own. Surely the priests had no grounds on which they could charge Jesus and with the festival about to begin they would not dare to hold Him in custody. He would be released by evening. But as I reached Jerusalem, I met up with some of my friends. All sorts of rumours were going around. One was that Jesus' disciples were organising a demonstration to



demand His release. Another was that He had already been released. Some were not so good. Someone who worked at the High Priest's house was adamant that they had taken Him to Pilate to demand the death sentence. He said that Caiaphas had visited Pilate late last night to ask him to hear the trial early this morning.

Executions always attract a crowd so it wasn't difficult to find where they had taken him. I'd heard about crucifixions, but unless you've seen one you really have no idea how horrific and cruel they are. I didn't know it was possible for human beings to be so cruel to one another. I won't describe it to you because if I did most of you would be sick. I couldn't stay long. It was just too awful to watch.

Reading 5: Matthew 27 V.45-34

Bartimaeus: It wasn't until afterwards that we fully appreciated that Jesus chose to die that way, of His own free will. When someone loves you that much, can you do anything other than worship them?

*Songs: When I survey
Led like a lamb*

Saturday

Bartimaeus: The past 2 days have been the worst days of my life. Now that I've met Jesus, I don't want to face life without him.

Friend: *[arriving]* Hey Bartimaeus have you heard the news? They say the tomb's empty.

Bartimaeus: The tomb's empty? You mean they've moved the body?

Friend: Don't know, but knowing Jesus, the explanation's not likely to be quite so simple. All I've heard are rumours so far, so I'm off to find someone who knows what they're talking about -like Simon Peter.

Bartimaeus: Hey, wait for me. BOTH RUSH OFF.

Saturday alternative ending

That day and the following one were the worst 2 days of my life. I'd never felt so despondent, even through all those years when I was blind. Having met Jesus, I didn't want to face life without Him. What I didn't yet realise was that Jesus wasn't just the Messiah. He was also God - and you can't kill God!

*Mime: I sometimes feel so small with the younger children
Story: Resurrection
Songs: Why are you looking for the living among the dead?
God's not dead
Show your power*

Writer: Brenda Lord

Photo image: Noema Brádňanská Ondrásek



Song suggestions – some of these could include actions or simple dances

- We believe in God the Father: Graham Kendrick
 - Bartimaeus: Ishmael USA & If You Can't Shout Saved (the original slower version) & Revived
 - It's a wonderful feeling: Ishmael USA (All, with very simple dance)
 - Blessed be the King who comes: Ishmael USA (All, with younger children waving 'palm branches')
 - Hosanna, hosanna: Carl Tuttle <http://www.higherpraise.com/Lyrics3/Hosanna.htm>
 - Hosanna, hosanna: Hillsong, but take it at a good pace if using to depict Palm Sunday
 - Crowd Trouble: Ishmael If You Can't Shout Saved; Revived
 - You are the King of Glory: Mavis Ford http://www.hymnlyrics.org/newlyrics_y/you_are_the_king_of_glory.php
 - When I survey the wondrous cross: Isaac Watts
 - Led like a lamb: Graham Kendrick
 - Show your power Oh Lord: Graham Kendrick
 - I sometimes feel so small: Ishmael USA
 - Why are you looking for the living? Ishmael USA
 - God's not dead http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk/christian-childrens-songs/god's_not_dead_he's_alive_crd.htm
 - God's not dead (like a lion) Newsboys <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=FMF12FNU>
- All Ishmael's songs can be downloaded individually from his website shop www.ishmael.org.uk

Bartimaeus

My name is Bartimaeus, sitting in my usual place,
 For many years I've sat here, never seen a face.
 If someone said they're wearing red, it wouldn't
 mean a thing.
 Colours are emptiness, a sight that's never been.
 When I was young, I had no friends, my youth it
 passed me by.
 All I got was curses and jokes about no eyes
 Then one day a great furore, the crowd was getting
 high.
 I asked them what the fuss was for, the healer's
 passing by.

O let me see, let me see, let me see
 Let me see, let me see, let me see

Quiet! He's got no time for you,
 He's more important things to do.
 But I just cried out all the more
 Let me see today.

O let me see, let me see, let me see x 2

Jesus must have heard me, cos I heard him call my
 name,
 Bartimaeus, what can I do for you?
 Let me see today.

O let me see, let me see, let me see x 2

Touch my eyes and let me see,
 Son of David have mercy on me.
 Touch my eyes and let me see,
 Son of David have mercy on me.

Bartimaeus, hungry soul,
 Look and see your faith has made you whole.
 I can see, I can see, I can see, I can see,
 Look what Jesus has done for me.
 I can see, I can see, I can see, I can see,
 I can see today.

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