

God Helps Those Who...

⇒ **Text:** Mark 10.46-52

⇒ **Intro:**

- The old saying 'God helps those who help themselves' is, contrary to popular opinion, not found in the Bible.
 - There are some scriptural endings to that phrase, however, in thought if not in these exact words.

- **For God helps those who -**

⇒ **I. Profess Their Need of Christ (vv. 46-47)**

- A. Bartimaeus was both blind and poor.
 - He was dependent on the compassion and charity of others for his survival.
 - Pride was a luxury he could not afford.
- B. Bartimaeus used his remaining faculties to the utmost.
 - He could hear and speak.
 - When he heard that Jesus was coming, he cried out for his help.
- C. Bartimaeus did not wait for complete understanding before calling on the Lord.
 - He called Jesus the "son of David," which was a true but inadequate ascription.
- D. Do not let pride, self-pity, or imperfect knowledge keep you from admitting your need of God's help in Christ.

- **For God helps those who -**

⇒ **II. Persevere in the Prayer of Faith (vv. 48-51)**

- A. Bartimaeus prayed for help.
 - True, his cry was not couched in liturgical language nor offered in a church, but it was a prayer nonetheless.
- B. The onlookers interfered with the blind man's prayer.
 - Instead of saying "Amen" they told him to keep quiet and conduct himself in a more respectable manner in Jesus' presence.
- C. The beggar did not let the criticism of others stop him from coming to Jesus.

- He was not concerned with what people thought of him but with obtaining God's help.

○ D. Are you persistent in your prayers?

- Do you keep calling on the Lord until he answers, even if people call you a "fanatic" for doing so?
- Is your faith strong enough to persevere in prayer?
- **For God helps those who -**

⇒ **III. Propose to Follow Christ in Discipleship (v. 52)**

- A. Bartimaeus became a follower of Christ once his sight was restored.
 - He did not settle for mere physical healing.
- B. Jesus' way became Bartimaeus's way.
 - Christ said, "Go thy way," but he followed Jesus.
- C. Why do you want Christ to answer your prayers?
 - So you can follow Christ and serve him better?
 - Or are your motives selfish in wanting to use your answered prayers sinfully?

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- We may well say to this poor, handicapped man, "Move over, Bartimaeus."
 - Is there room on that road for me?
 - For I, too, am a blind beggar in need of the Master's healing touch."