

## Introduction

In 1961, I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and was born again after hearing a message called "The Loss of the Soul" preached by a man named Norman Walker. He was a lay preacher and was booked to speak for one Sunday evening in an Assemblies of God church in Coventry where I lived and still do.

A few years after becoming a Christian, I felt the urge to be a preacher of the Word of God and Norman Walker encouraged me in that. "Prepare a message and pray that God will use it" he told me. I took his advice and it was not long afterwards that I had a preaching opportunity at a young people's meeting in a town not far from Coventry. In the years following I received invitations from many churches to speak at their meetings and, after being in the Christian faith for over forty years, I have never grown tired of sharing God's word.

The messages themselves have invariably been the result of time spent in the Word of God and I hope that what is shared as a result represents, in some small way at least, what the Holy Spirit wants His people to hear. It is almost impossible to recall all reference sources I have used when preparing so many messages over so many years. I have a good library of books by numerous authors to which I readily refer, notes from conferences, videos, tapes and a large number of reference materials available via Bible software and the internet. Acknowledgements appear from time to time in my notes but where material has been included from memory it may not have been possible for me remember the source of it.

My wife, Jean, who loves the Lord, has always been a constant source of inspiration, love and patience. Jean spent many hours encouraging me as I wrote out messages in the early years, and in more recent times has patiently endured the clicking of a keyboard as I type them on my computer. She is also my finest critic and sounding board and I owe so much to her.

I hope that the notes which follow this introduction will be helpful to whoever reads them. It would give me joy to think that they are of help to someone else who is walking the same road of wanting to preach the Word of God and who is seeking reference material. Feel free to make copies for that purpose. Whilst I hope that authors from whom I have quoted will have no objection to such quotes being copied, I cannot guarantee that.

Whilst I imagine it unlikely that someone would want to publish the notes or extracts from them in a book or other format for financial gain, I should be grateful if any person wishing to do so would first request permission by contacting us.

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### Bartimaeus

This message was delivered at Coundon Fellowship in 2008. It intended to show not only that spiritual lessons can be learned from the actions of Bartimaeus but also that we should not treat this account merely as a story with a meaning like we might do with a parable. In fact the whole point of this account is to show that the Lord healed sick people when He walked the earth and He still does so today through His people.

