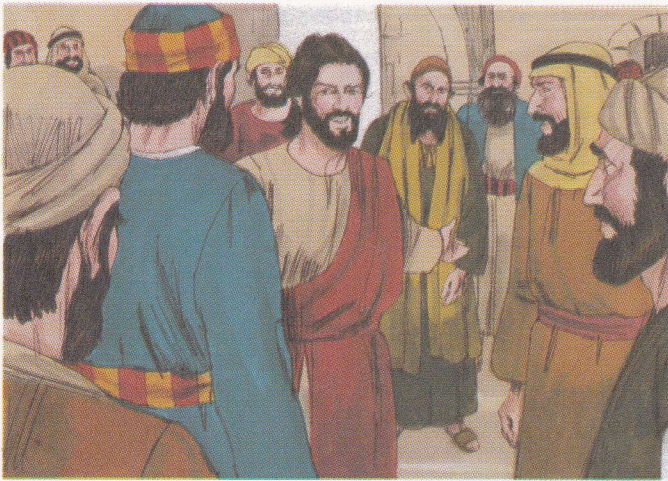
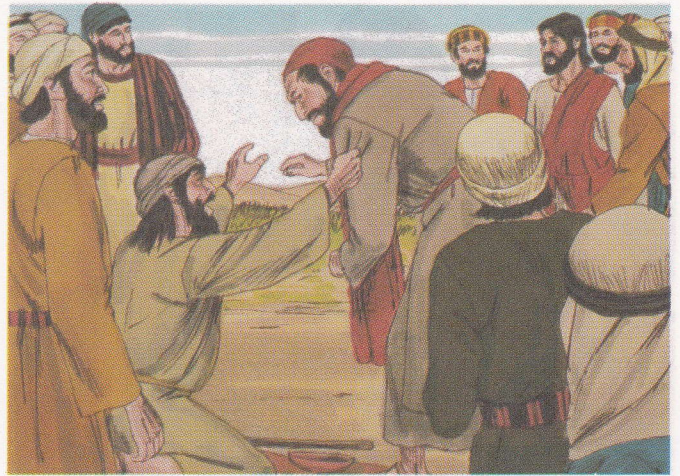


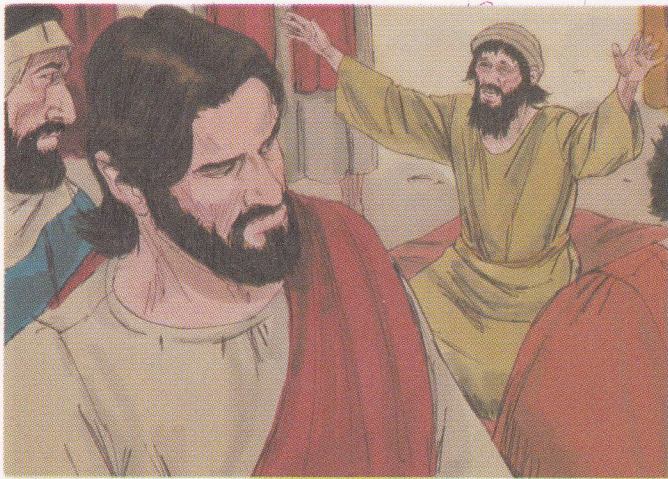
Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus



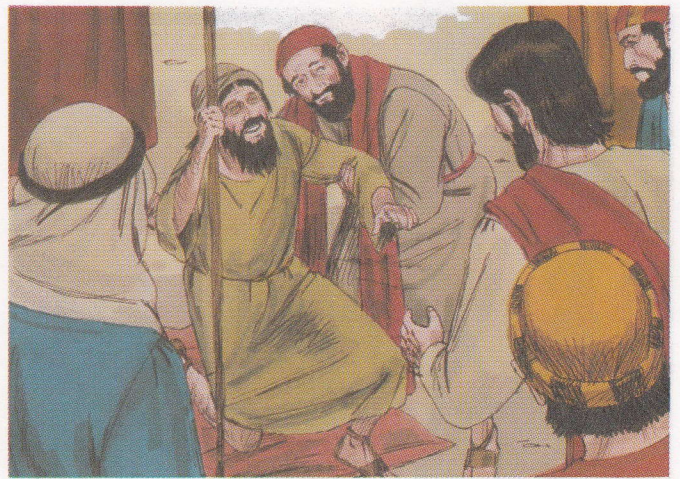
1 Once when Jesus was leaving Jericho, a great crowd was following him. He came upon a blind man named Bartimaeus, who was begging beside the road.



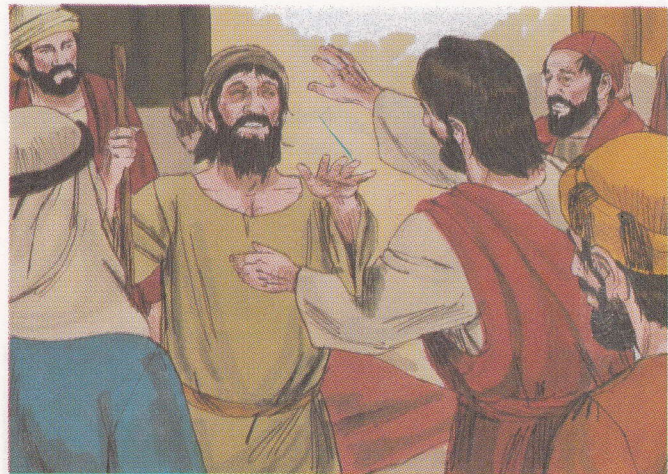
2 When Bartimaeus heard the noise of many people going by, he asked someone, "What's happening?" He was told, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."



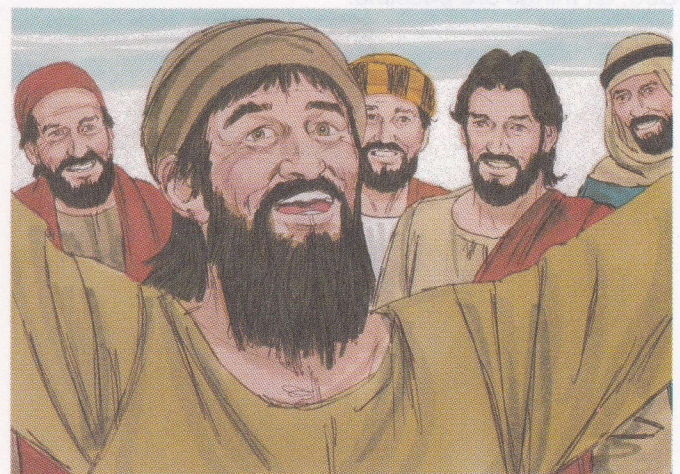
3 Then Bartimaeus began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those in front said, "Be quiet!" But he only cried louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"



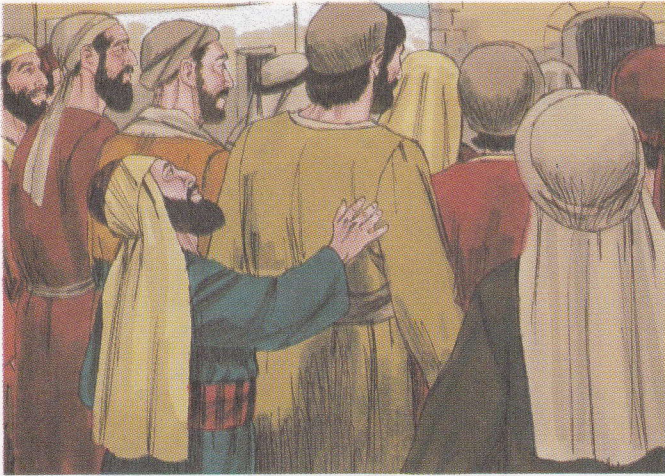
4 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they said to Bartimaeus, "Get up! He's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw off his cloak and jumped up and came to Jesus.



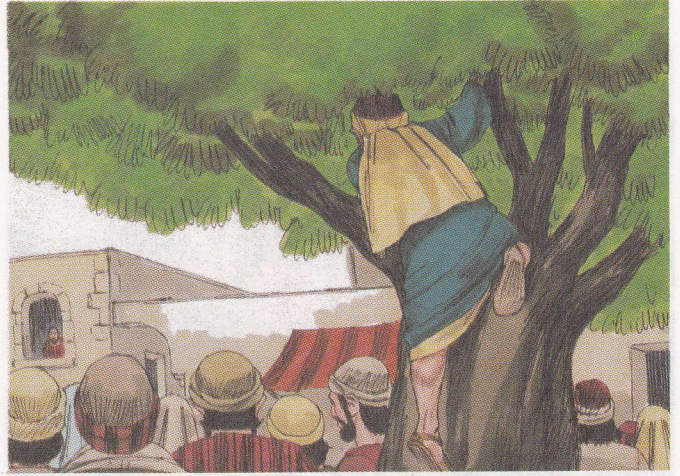
5 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. Bartimaeus said, "Master, let me receive my sight." "Go your way," Jesus said. "Your faith has made you well."



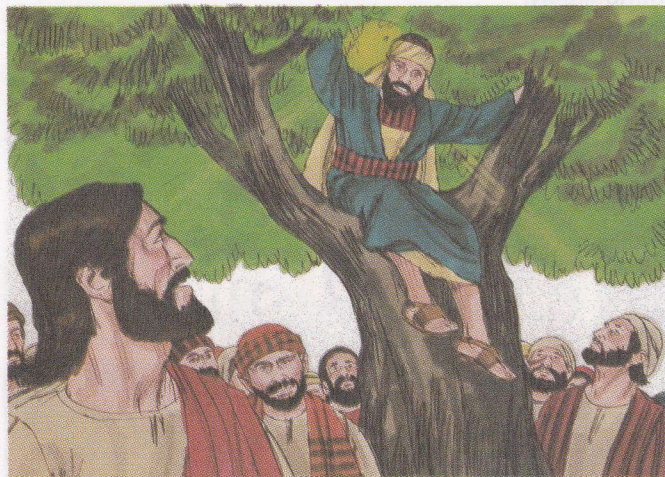
6 Instantly Bartimaeus could see! He followed Jesus down the road, giving thanks to God. The crowds who saw this also praised God.



7 Another time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. A rich tax collector named Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. But he was small and could not see over the crowd.



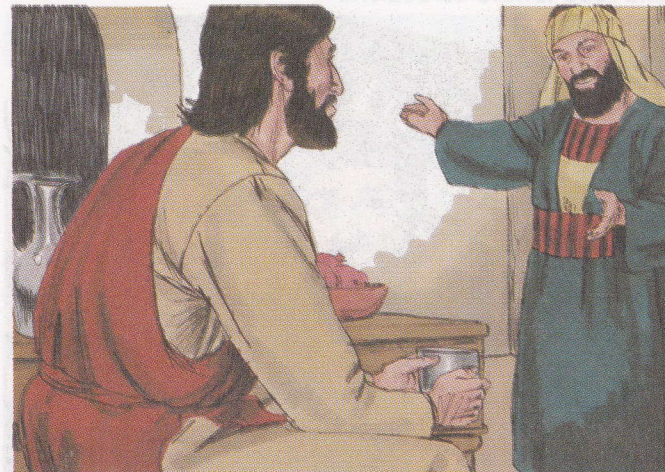
8 So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree beside the road where Jesus was going to pass.



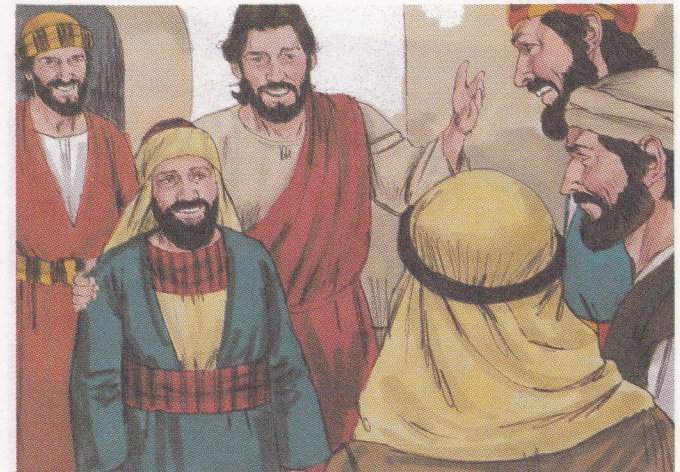
9 When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today." So Zacchaeus quickly climbed down, filled with joy.



10 Now Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and some of the people who saw this complained. They said, "Jesus has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."



11 In his house, Zacchaeus stood before Jesus and said, "Lord, I will give half of all I have to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I'll pay him back four times as much."



12 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."