

MIRACLES OF JESUS

PROPER VISION - LUKE 18:35-43

- A. Jesus approached Jericho (35), *As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.*
1. Jericho is north of the Dead Sea and about 20 miles from Jerusalem.
 2. Jesus headed toward Jerusalem for His date with death to make payment for our sins.
 3. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar was sitting on the side of the road
 - a. His name, Bartimaeus, is given in this account in Mark 10:46.
 - b. *Bartimeus* means *son of Timaeus*, or, *son of the unclean*.
 - c. Charles Ryrie, *...his name itself labels the situation of all born into this world. We are children of wrath, sons of Adam, unacceptable in God's holy sight. No one has even a little saving merit in God's eyes.*
- B. A blind beggar heard a crowd passing by and wanted to know what was happening (36-37), *And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."*
1. He wondered why a large crowd was passing by and asked what was happening.
 2. He was told that Jesus was passing by.
 3. William Taylor, *That is he of whom I have heard such wondrous things. They have told me how he has made the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear, the leper to be clean, and the dead to live again. I have heard, too, how he has opened the eyes of the blind, and kind travelers as they dropped their alms into my hand have said to me again and again that if I could only get to him, he would be sure to heal me. Often have I prayed that he might come this way, and now he is here! This is the opportunity of my life. Oh! God that I may use it well!*
- C. The blind beggar cried out to Jesus to have mercy on him (38-39), *And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*
1. He asked the Son of David to have mercy on him.
 - a. Jesus' person, Son of David, was acknowledged because of the works Jesus performed.
 - 1) *Son of David* was a messianic title that expressed the blind man's faith in Jesus as the Messiah.
 - 2) Jeremiah 23:5-6, *Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'*
 - b. He had already begun to see because he acknowledged the person of Christ, the Son of David, and understood that he had no right to receive anything from the Savior except through mercy.
 - c. Author unknown, *Mercy is compassion in action.*
 2. Those around the blind man told him to be quiet.
 - a. Some believe they were offended by his address of Jesus.
 - b. Others believed the crowd considered the blind man unworthy to call the teacher.
 - c. The beggar knew Jesus could meet his needs and he would not let the crowd keep him from the Savior's response.
 - d. William Taylor, *Never hinder a sinner from calling on His Saviour. Bid no one hold his peace who is crying on Jesus of Nazareth for the salvation of his soul.*
- D. Jesus had the blind beggar brought to Him (40-42), *And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." 42 And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well."*
1. Jesus told others to bring the blind man to Him even as we are told to bring the spiritually blind to Jesus.
 2. He asked the man what he wanted Jesus to do for him.
 3. The man wanted his sight restored.
 4. Jesus told him to recover his sight.
 - a. His sight was received on the basis of his faith in Jesus.
 - b. It was physical and spiritual sight.
 - c. Charles Ryrie, *...only Christ could open blind eyes. Without him Bartimeus's case was truly hopeless, and so is every sinner's. The sight of eternal life can come only through Christ and no one else.*
 - d. John Chrysostom, God has made for us two kinds of eyes: those of flesh and those of faith.

- E. The response of those present (43), *And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.*
1. The blind man
 - a. He immediately received his sight.
 - 1) Physically, at once, he went from darkness to light.
 - 2) Spiritually, at once, one goes from death to life.
 - b. He followed Jesus, glorifying God.
 - c. Charles Ryrie, *Christ did not ask if Bartimeus would follow him as a condition of his healing or his salvation, but once he was healed, it was the natural thing to do. Following is a consequence, not a condition of salvation.*
 2. The people who saw the miracle.
 - a. They gave praise to God.
 - b. It was an acknowledgment that Jesus was empowered by God.
 - c. They still had to choose Jesus by faith even as we do, today.

CONCLUSION

- A. Importance of faith
1. This miracle contrasts the faith of this blind man to the unbelief of the religious leaders.
 2. The humble seeking mercy receive salvation while the proud who think they don't need Jesus will not.
- B. How to respond by faith
1. Know that you are needy
 - a. For some it may be a physical illness.
 - b. For all it is spiritual illness.
 - b. We all need mercy and by faith in Christ, God gives us grace.
 2. Know who to ask for help
 - a. Jesus cares about you and me.
 - b. Jesus has the ability to give us what we need.
 - c. Jesus always gives more than expected.