

9:27

And when Jesus departed thence. From the house of the man whose daughter Jesus healed.

two blind men followed Him, crying, Now is there any doubt in your mind what Matthew is trying to do? He's trying to show you Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah 35, for one thing.

He's also trying to show you the most important weekend in his life. The weekend when Christ, earlier in the chapter, called him from his daytime job to follow Him. This is a very important weekend. And here we are coming up finally, after three months of preaching, on the end of a weekend. A very important weekend.

We find another ailment that Jesus can heal. Another one. And once again we have those who have much faith like these blind men and those who express no faith like the dumb man. I mean, he was demon-possessed. And so once again we find in this chapter this wide array of dilemma, perhaps. You have people who can exercise faith and people who cannot. No one is going to say that the dead little girl could exercise faith. And Jesus raises her. And no one is going to say that a demon-possessed man (or two of them from the last chapter) that are living in the cemetery could exercise faith. But we know that a man who is living and has palsy can. We know that men who are not demon-possessed and are blind can.

So, there's this pitiful Savior. Pitiful. It means He's full of pity.

This takes place, like the rest of the weekend for the most part, in Capernaum. I have to tell you though, I don't think that this is the first blind person Jesus healed. I don't think that at all because earlier in Matthew chapter 4 it says He went out healing all types of sicknesses, all types of diseases, healing lunatics; end of chapter 4. I've got to tell you, when I know this is not the only blind man, the only blind men that Jesus healed, all I can think is "more blind people." I don't mean to be irreverent here, but more "dumb people." As soon as Jesus is done healing them somewhere in Palestine another man is born blind, or going blind. Or another person is possessed by devils. So I guess, I look at this and I think, "What is the point?" Every time He does something it seems like there remains something to be done.

So we remember that 9:5 is pretty handy here: "Whether it is easier, to say, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, 'Arise, and walk?'" But that ye may know the Son of Man has power to forgive sins, get up and walk." So remember that every sign Jesus does is to prove to you and to me that He has power on earth to forgive sins. Because you've observed Him healing physical, visible maladies. So then be filled with faith that He can heal the invisible maladies as well. The ones that nobody sees.

That the reason we clean our houses is not that dirt and filth are completely eradicated. We remember that the reason that we do things that are seemingly undone as soon as we do them, is to remind people that "the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." Think about it. All day, every day we do things that will have to be done again tomorrow. Why? To draw attention to the One who has power on earth to forgive sins. All day we do menial tasks. Why? So that people, by looking at us, will see what Jesus looks like when He does them. And so they "might know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." So, here's Jesus healing another blind man; another blind pair of men. Why do we go to work to pay bills when they need to be paid again next month? To remind people that "the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."

The reason Jesus did the same things over and over and over again, He told us, was so that we could see that He has power with God to forgive sins. He drew attention to Himself by doing things that were no problem for Him. And it didn't completely eradicate; have you ever met a blind person? There are many on the earth. Why did He heal these when there are more to be healed? So that we would read the New Testament and say, "This Man must also have the power to forgive sins."

and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. Now I want you to see with the care with which Matthew is writing. **Son of David** is used here. Look at verse 6 of this chapter, "But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins." So we have Son of Man, Son of David. We look back at the 8:29, "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of

God?" So Matthew is showing us in less than a chapter that Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Son of David. Very systematic.

9:28

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him Remember, on our chronology it's Sunday evening. Jesus has had a pretty eventful weekend: two trips across the lake, one of them in the rain; it's doubtful that He slept much, if at all, because when He did try His disciples came and woke Him up. He's been healing people. And by the way, you know how I'm kind of a stickler about staying in the passage, but if you take Mark and Luke, this weekend is even fuller than Matthew makes it look. It's even fuller. I could add about six or eight other events that took place in Capernaum on this weekend.¹ So humanly speaking I think I know why He kept walking, but this is very much unlike the One who demons call the Son of God, and He Himself called Himself the Son of Man, and here He is now and they know, they know, He's the Son of David.

Perhaps they were using this title as a sort of hopeful manipulation. "Maybe we can say something that will make God do something." But I am really impressed, maybe amazed, maybe annoyed. I don't know; maybe nauseated, that they are continually crying, "Son of David, have mercy," as they're following. Can you see it? We already know there was a crowd following Jesus because the woman who touched the hem of His garment was in the middle of that crowd. You might remember from one of the other synoptics the disciples said, "What do You mean who touched You Lord? You are in the middle of a throng and You say, 'Who touched You?'" So there is a crowd pressing in on Him. You know, the disciples are trying to get Jesus safely from place to place. And it's not happening very smoothly.

Now didn't Jesus hear them the first time? That is mysterious to me. This is not the only time this happens in the gospels, where Jesus acts like He's not listening. I do not understand Jesus in this regard.

Jesus heals two blind men twice in Matthew. This passage does not have a parallel in Mark or Luke. This healing does not. The other one in Matthew does. The other one in Matthew happens much later in the book and they also call Him Son of David and ask for healing. There's something particular that these people expected from the Son of David, about healing blind people. But they're doing two things. They are following, or rather they are crying and saying as they're following.

Think of these two men. How blessed were they to believe that this Son of David is really, first of all, the Son of David, and second of all may actually be interested in healing them. I don't want to accuse them of having full faith, but they had enough. We don't know how much faith they had. We might be able to say they had lots of faith. When given the question, "Do you believe I am able to do this?" That's an easy question because there's many things I think God is able to do. But these, these two blind men, they have enough faith to at least say something when the man who they call the Son of David walks by.

I don't know about you. You may not have perfect faith. But do you have enough to say anything? Do you have enough to keep saying it when He keeps walking? It feels like He's not listening. But if He wasn't listening He would have turned around and rebuked you, because that's what the disciples would have done. He would have said, "Stop asking. My grace is sufficient."

But they follow Him into a house that they don't belong in. You might remember blind people were seen oftentimes as cursed. Do I have to remind you in John 9 when the disciples saw a blind man in the temple they said, "Jesus, who sinned? This dude or his parents?" And they said, He said, "Neither." Do you remember that? So it wasn't hard to understand that oftentimes people thought blind people were cursed. And Matthew, "Matthew, oh my goodness my friend, you've only been following Jesus for about eight or ten hours. Are you a big enough man to realize that cursed people can come to your house?" Hard questions.

9:29

¹<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=1101192354> [accessed 2/23/2017]; some effort was made to synchronize these accounts here.

These blind men are continually tapping and groping, and poking along with their sticks or their hands along the ground, following with their hands, carefully inspecting. If you were to stand in front of them and talk they would reach up and touch your face to identify who you are. They would grab your hands, your arms. They would try to see, "Is this this person I think it is? Who is it?" And when you'd come and talk again they'd re-identify you by touching you.

But this time, verse 29, Jesus **touched their eyes**. What a day! What a day! We're not seeing the emphasis of the blind, we're seeing the emphasis of the healing. We're not making much out of the people, we're making much out of the Savior. It doesn't say anything about them touching Him, because this is not a day they are going to leave desperate blind men. No, no. Jesus the One who could be touched with a feeling of our infirmities looks at them, in a house, after being tired for two days, and touches their eyes.

But He is touching their eyes! What a compassionate Jesus. No one else would touch them. Jesus touches people. I feel driven to ask the Father, that it almost makes me want to touch the dry hand of a beggar on the corner of Skibo and Morganton. I'm talking about a real beggar; I'm talking about someone that would actually follow you across the street to Burger King if you offered. Please notice this would have been an impossibility if Jesus wasn't filled with love for the Father. I find usually when I'm critical and making fun of people who need my help, it's because the love of the Father is not in me.

9:30

And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

Why did Jesus have this fascination with nobody knowing who He was? It could be, yes, that He didn't want flimsy, miracle-based fellowship or followship. It could also be that He needed a fickle people to hate Him enough to crucify Him. And if everyone knows that He's the Son of David then that means that He's supposed to be a king, and they probably won't hate Him enough to kill Him.

*Matthew 16:20 then **He charged His disciples that they should tell no man He was Jesus the Christ.** He didn't want anyone, He didn't want the masses finding out He was the Son of David or the Christ.*

*Matthew 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, **Jesus charged them, saying, "Tell the vision to no man, Until the Son of Man be risen again from the dead...22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, "The Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again."** And they were exceeding sorry.*

The bottom line is the answer to why Jesus didn't want anyone knowing who He was, not so much that He wouldn't heal them, because they always went out and told, didn't they? But He scaled it back quite a bit with His warnings and we know, at least humanly speaking, the reason that He told them so was because, well, while He was making blind people see, He needed all the seeing people to be blind. And if He doesn't do that, you and I would one day wake up in hellfire. What a merciful God to blind some seeing people, and to make some blind people see.

9:32

Verse 27: "Jesus departed thence;" verse 28: "when He came into the house;" verse 31: "they when they were departed." Verse 32: "as they went out." So, we have Jesus now departing from the house of the ruler whose daughter He just healed and in verse 28 He comes into the house. Now, there have been several houses in this passage. One of them was Matthew's (9:9-10).

And these blind men. I don't know which is more surprising: the fact that Jesus doesn't answer them or the fact that they follow Him into another man's house. I would say Jesus is trying to see if they are desperate enough. "Are you just throwing a trite prayer at Me? Or am I really your only hope?" Because they're following Him and they're calling.

