

Introduction

December is here already and I don't know about you but I have already been listening to plenty of Christmas music and thinking much upon the events surrounding the birth of our Savior. One of those events was the visit of the magi who came from the east. Jesus had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David. The magi had begun a very long journey that at last brought them to the house where Jesus was staying with Joseph and Mary. The magi brought expensive and precious gifts to the newborn king and knelt before him and worshiped him. But for the magi, their journey started when they saw something. With their eyes they beheld his star. And after they arrived in Jerusalem, the star appeared again going before them and leading them to the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. Sight is a very precious gift of God. It played an important role in bringing the magi to Jesus. Without it they would not have seen the star no matter how brightly it shone. They would not have known the king had been born. They would not have been able to find the king in order to worship him. And the journey would have been incredibly intimidating. Sight is a precious gift of God. We turn this morning in our study of Matthew to consider two men who had no sight but who received it through the miraculous work of Jesus.

[Read Text; Pray]

In the brief time we have in the word this morning, we find ourselves learning of yet another miracle Jesus performed. This time he heals two men who were blind. In doing so, he yet again sets before us reason to trust in him as Savior and follow him as Lord. He also gives us reason to be like the magi and worship him. So I want you to see three accomplishments of this miracle of Jesus.

First,

I. This Healing Work Confirms Jesus as Messiah.

A. To call Jesus Messiah is to affirm that he is the fulfillment of God's promise to King David that his throne would be established eternally. It has

been Matthew's purpose in writing this gospel to demonstrate that Jesus is this Messiah. Isaiah had prophesied that in conjunction with the coming and work of the Messiah the blind would gain their sight. And though a number of miracles are recorded in the Old Testament, healing the blind and giving them sight is not one of them. So Matthew's inclusion of this miracle strengthens the case he is making. Jesus is Messiah.

B. The two blind men openly and vocally testify that this is what they believe. As Jesus was passing on from there, the two blind men followed him crying aloud, "Have mercy on us Son of David." By the use of this messianic title these men were proclaiming Jesus to be the Messiah. And one thing that is remarkably absent from the text here is this: Jesus did not correct them. Their affirmation of Jesus to be the Son of David was also an affirmation that Jesus could overrule their blindness and give them sight.

Second,

II. This Healing Work Displays Jesus as a Great Savior.

A. Matthew treats us to a showcase of physical healing right here in this section of his gospel. I have been pointing out how the afflictions he has been healing are windows into the nature of sin and how it brings destruction to our souls. In the previous section we saw how the physical death and defilement of the bodies of the two daughters point us to the spiritual death and defilement sin brings to our souls.

B. Right here we may grasp how physical blindness depicts an additional spiritual reality. Sin brings about spiritual death and defilement in our souls, and it also brings spiritual blindness. Human beings by nature are dead and defiled in their trespasses and sins. And furthermore, we are spiritually blind. We can't even see, we cannot even grasp the truth that stares us in the face. But here is another of the great saving works of Jesus Christ. Through him spiritual blindness is healed. He gives eyes to see and appreciate the majesty and glory of God. He gives sight so that human beings can be exhilarated by the beauty of the glorious gospel.

Paul pointed to this blindness in 2 Corinthians 3. He speaks of minds that are hardened against the truth. He speaks of a veil that lies over the hearts of the unbelieving. Even when the Bible is read, a veil keeps them from

seeing the glory of it all. In 2 Corinthians 4:3 he explains, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." But he says, "when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed." And he explains. "God . . . has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

I just want you to see how Paul's instruction there is brought to life in this encounter with the two blind men. Jesus touches them and their eyes are opened. Now just imagine, you are blind. You are living in total darkness. You stub your toes constantly, step on rocks, step in fires, and shapes and forms and vivid colors are unseen. And suddenly the light switch is flipped on and you experience a whole new world. And for these two men the first thing they see is Jesus!

Many people experience color-blindness, but special glasses have been invented that enable many of them to see color. It is moving to watch on video when the color-blind put on the glasses for the first time. They are overwhelmed; their eyes fill with tears; they are in awe; they are speechless. Even though they could see, they now see richness and beauty that they had missed.

This is how great a Savior Jesus is. He died that we might see. He died that we might live, that our defilement might be removed, our sins forgiven. But he also died that we might see. Just as he healed these two physically blind men, he heals the spiritual blindness of those who turn to him. He gives sight to see and value truth. He gives spiritual sight to be able to see the glory of God in his face.

If you love the gospel, it is because Christ has given you sight. Praise him for his mercy to you. Enjoy what you see. Look at Christ. Gaze at his glory through the spiritual eyes of perception he has given you. Such gazing at Christ is essential for being transformed. Speaking of Christ-followers, the Apostle Paul says, "And we all with unveiled face beholding the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

If you resist the gospel, you need the sight only Jesus can give. Turn to him. Be like the blind men and cry out for mercy. If you really want spiritual sight, he will give it.

I conclude with one more point—our right response to spiritual sight.

III. This Healing Work Compels Jesus' Followers to Spread His Fame.

A. Matthew tells us that Jesus instructed the two blind men to keep what he had done a secret. "See that no one knows about it," he said. There are several possible reasons why Jesus might have said this to the men, but to spend time wondering about it would only distract from the main point Matthew wants us to see. For whatever reason Jesus told them not to tell.

But the fact of the matter is they were so overwhelmed, so amazed, so astonished, they could not keep their mouths shut. They spread his fame throughout all the district.

B. The concluding thought I have for each believer this morning is this. Jesus has given you spiritual sight. But he has NOT told you to keep it to yourself. He has said to his disciples, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Go and tell the world I once was blind but now I see. How is it that these guys could not keep silent but we struggle to speak a word? The season is upon us with myriads of opportunities to spread his fame. Don't hold back!

Conclusion

It is a challenge not to tear up if you watch videos of the guys who have received the chroma glasses. They have exclamations and tears and thank you's. One boy I said, "This changed my life." If Jesus has given you spiritual sight, he has definitely changed your life. How could you not spread his fame? How could you not boldly announce with the magi your intent to worship him. How could you not summon the world to join you in such worship? I just want to encourage you. The world would tell us to keep Jesus to ourselves. It would say religion is a private, personal matter. But Jesus has said that he is very much a public matter. We are commissioned to spread his name.