

Morning Sermon September 21, 2014

Luke 18:35-43

“Cries of a (seemingly) Crazy Blind Man”

I. *He had an accurate view of himself as blind, helpless and needy –*

And it came about that as He was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the road, begging. (Luke 18:35)

1. *It is extremely important that we see ourselves accurately – This is the wisdom of Scripture for us even as believers –*

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (Rom 12:3 NKJ)

2. *Many have false views of themselves, they are blind to their own blindness and other weaknesses –*

And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind."⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things, and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. (John 9:39-41 NAS)

¹⁷ "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--¹⁸ "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. (Revelation 3:17-18 NKJ)

Their thinking they had what they needed, that they were okay, that they did not NEED HELP, sapped all power from their prayers, if they felt any real need to pray at all.

The blind man was an experienced “beggar” we NEED to learn from him, if we will have anything from God or Christ!

II. *He had ears ready to hear, even though his eyes were not seeing –*

³⁶ Now hearing a multitude going by, he began to inquire what this might be.

1. *He heard the multitude, and was quick to inquire, he was sensitive enough to understand, these sounds seem important -*

2. *Jesus emphasizes the importance of HEARING RIGHTLY –*

⁸ "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Luke 8:8 NKJ)

3. *Salvation comes through “hearing” –*

¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." (Romans 10:13 NKJ)

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

III. *He had an accurate view of Jesus though others may not have been seeing –*

³⁷ And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.³⁸ And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

1. *The crowd calls Him “Jesus of Nazareth” as that is where He seemed to have come from ...*

2. *Yet, the blind man recognizes Him as “Son of David” – which would imply a true, spiritual understanding, even of Jesus’ physical birth –*

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, (Luke 2:4 NKJ)

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11 NKJ)

How was a blind man seeing such things?

but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."¹⁰ For to us God revealed them

through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NAS)

Even the prophet Samuel, was blinded by outward appearance, regarding Jesse's son –

⁶ So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*" (1Samual 16:6-7 NKJ)

3. *This man was not blinded by any outward appearance and in spite of his own outward appearance, a seemingly crazy, yelling blind-man, He KNEW Jesus –*

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

A. *He knew David, not just as a shepherd boy but as the conqueror of the lion, the bear and Goliath.*

B. *He was seeing in the Son of David, the merciful Conqueror of his personal Goliath, his blindness!*

IV. *He had an accurate view of time, circumstance and opportunity, and He was not about to let this one pass him by, even though he had opposition –*

³⁹ And those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Luke 18:39

1. *This man seemed crazy to others around him and so they were rebuking him, sternly telling him to be quiet, warning him, scolding him ...*

2. *Yet, He was not going to let this IMPORTANT MOMENT, or Christ pass him by --- so he kept crying out all the MORE! What should we do, when it seems our prayers are being drowned out?*

but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Luke 18:39

⁸ "I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many

as he needs. ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:8-13 NKJ)

I commend to you, in the next place, the importance of *earnestness* in prayer. It is not necessary that a man should shout, or scream, or be very loud, in order to prove that he is in earnest. But it is desirable that we should be hearty, and fervent, and warm, and ask as if we were really interested in what we were doing. It is the "effectual fervent" prayer that "avails much," and not the cold, sleepy, lazy, listless one. This is the lesson that is taught us by the expressions used in Scripture about prayer. It is called, "crying, knocking, wrestling, laboring, striving." J.C. Ryle Practical Religion

"Only one life, it soon will pass, only what's done ~~for~~ BY Christ will last"

V. *He had an accurate view of Christ's abilities and willingness to heal; and his faith was rewarded with healing / salvation -*

⁴⁰ And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he had come near, He questioned him, ⁴¹ "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, *I want to regain my sight!*" ⁴² And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." ⁴³ And immediately he regained his sight, and *began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.* (Luke 18:40-43 NAS)

Note:

1. *The blind man's prayer was answered! Immediately!*
2. *He followed Christ!*
3. *Glorified God*
4. *Others praised God!*

Do you want answered prayer too? Let the Luke 18 blind man be your guide!

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