

THE BLIND SEE!

Luke 18:35-43

Old saying: "There is no man so blind, as the man who *will not* see!"

Jesus has demonstrated that He's Messiah.

He has come to fulfill the covenants as God promised.

ISRAEL'S REJECTION presented in great detail. **9:51-19:27**

Jesus' is determined to go to Jerusalem to die. **9:51**

DEMONSTRATION OF REJECTION 9:51-11:54

INSTRUCTION IN VIEW OF REJECTION 12:1-19:27

Jesus continues to teach His disciples important lessons they need to know in the light of Israel's rejection of Him. 17-19:27

He wants them to be aware of the things that are going to happen and how they relate to God's plan.

His death and resurrection **18:31-34**

SALVATION OF ISRAEL 18:35-19:10

Jesus uses TWO INCIDENTS along the way to teach His disciples important truths concerning salvation:

1. HEALING OF BLIND BEGGAR serves as object lesson concerning Israel's condition and our need of a Savior. 18:35-43

Lesson to learn: To receive God's blessing we must recognize our need.

[2. ZACCHAEUS 19:1-10

Lesson to learn: God seeks people who don't deserve it!]

RECOGNITION OF NEED 18:35-43

Near Jericho a blind man, hearing all the commotion, asks what's going on. When he's told it's Jesus, he realizes that this is his opportunity; Messiah is present!

THE BLIND MAN RECOGNIZES HIS NEED 18:35-41

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.³⁶ When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."³⁸ He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"⁴⁰ Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.

He's blind and can do nothing to improve his condition.

He *sees* that Jesus can solve it.

He *sees* what religious leaders can't see: Jesus is Messiah.

THE BLIND MAN RECOGNIZES WHO JESUS IS 18:37-41

18:37-39 *They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."³⁸ He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

He addresses him as "*son of David*"

They may not see it, but the blind man can *see* it!

He has no doubt about Jesus' Messianic claim!

Knowing about Messiah, he determines to experience His mercy personally.

He will accept no possibility that the opportunity for healing might pass him by.

Messiah was to give sight to the blind. **Isa. 35:5**

If Messiah's among them, he wants the blessing!
 Here's the One who can help him!
 He won't let anything keep him
 from receiving the blessing he needs.

THE BLIND MAN CALLS OUT TO JESUS 18:38-39

He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

He recognizes the moment of opportunity and is determined to take advantage of it, whether anyone else thinks his response is appropriate or not.

Barclay: "The one thing which stands out in this story is the sheer, desperate persistence of the blind man."

Jesus is probably teaching as they walk along.

With all the people and all the commotion, it's hard enough to hear, without this guy shouting at them!

He persists in crying out, even when everyone's telling him to be quiet.

The first statement says "*he called out.*"

The second: when they tell him to quiet down, he begins to scream for Jesus! . . . and Jesus heard him.

Opposition causes him to be even more adamant in seeking Jesus' help.

Those who are flocking around Jesus are not especially concerned about the man's needs, nor even about Jesus' ability to heal him.

They're busy satisfying their own curiosity, or getting wherever they're going, more than they are about Jesus' or the man's opportunity.

Our furlough trips across the country. Kid's complaint:

Always in a hurry to get where we're going.

Never had time to stop and see the sights.

That's what these people were doing.

They want to get on with the journey.

Don't bother the Master! He has places to go and things to do.

They forgot what Messiah's coming is about: to release the captives.

To cause the blind to see.

They've lost their perspective.

Caught up in the thrill of the moment.

The blind man has a real need; he wants that need met! *Now!*

When they try to quiet him, he responds with an even more aggressive, more desperate, scream to get Jesus' attention.

He cries out in desperation to Jesus and Jesus delivers him.

If this feels slightly allegorical, I believe that's because it is.

The healing's real, but a spiritual lesson is implicit in the passage also!

How would you respond if Jesus asked you:

"What do you want me to do for you?"

Some of us may respond like **three survivors of a shipwreck** in the apocryphal story I heard about.

They'd been adrift on the ocean in a lifeboat for days when a bottle floated by. They grabbed it and uncorked it. Sure enough, a genie appears. 'You've liberated me,' said the genie, 'I'll give each of you one wish.'

One man said, 'I wish I was back home with my family in Los Angeles.' —and with that he was gone.

The second said, 'I wish I was back with my sweetheart in New York.' With that he was gone also.

The third said, 'I'm so lonely. I wish my friends were back again.'

Fortunately, more than one wish is available.

But a more important issue is, will we take advantage of the opportunity we have.

How would you answer Jesus' question?

THE BLIND MAN TRUSTS JESUS 18:38-42 18:40-42 *Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."*

Therefore, he's healed of his blindness.

Jesus announces that **it's his faith that saved him.**

Jesus responds to his faith. Faith delivers him from affliction.

Not faith in faith—but faith in JESUS!

THE BLIND MAN RECEIVES HIS SIGHT 18:42-43 **18:42-43a**

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."⁴³ Immediately he received his sight

The ultimate result:

THE BLIND MAN PRAISES GOD (ALL THE PEOPLE JOIN HIM!) 18:43 *he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God.*

When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

God was glorified and the people praised God.

IMPLICATIONS OF THIS STORY:

FOR ISRAEL THEN:

The blind man is an outcast; he sets an example of how the nation should respond to their Messiah.

The blind man "sees" what religious leaders can't see:

Jesus is Messiah; he won't let anything stop him from receiving the blessing which is most important for him.

Therefore, he's healed of his blindness and follows Jesus.

That's what Israel needs to do

They fail to "see" what the blindman sees, and do what the outcast does.

Therefore, they remain in their blindness.

They have no faith.

Therefore, they aren't delivered from their affliction.

They still can't see.

Israel is spiritually blind and doesn't recognize their need.

Thus they see no need to turn to Christ for help.

Religious leaders discourage others from turning to Jesus.

=> Luke 19:42

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

=> John 9:39-41

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked,

"What? Are we blind too?"⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Christ won't remove the blindness until they acknowledge their need and come to Him to have that need met.

He helps those who recognize their need and turn to Him.

That's what we must do also!

FOR US TODAY:

Notice the **SEQUENCE FOR SALVATION:**

1. Recognizes his need.
2. Recognizes Who Jesus is.
3. Calls upon Jesus.
4. Trusts Him.
5. Receives sight.
6. Praises God.

Many today, like the religious leaders,
don't know they have a need.

They're content and self-satisfied just as they are.

They have no sense of their true condition before God.

Are we as desperate to have our needs met as this man was?

[John tells us about this man's (?) witness regarding Jesus]

Has God done more for us or less for us?

Are we as anxious to see God glorified and praised as he was?

Passages that talk about this person indicate that *he can't keep quiet* about what Jesus has done for him, even when facing opposition.