

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Thirty-Six

Healing Blind Men Near Jericho

Text: Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

Introduction:

1. As Jesus continued traveling toward Jerusalem, he taught the crowds around Him many important lessons.
 - a. The importance of prayer (Luke 18:1-14)
 - b. Marriage and divorce (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12)
 - c. Riches and sacrifice (Matthew 19:13-20; Mark 10:13-31; Luke 18:15-30)
2. He also emphasized to His disciples what was about to happen in Jerusalem – that He would be betrayed, condemned, killed, and raised from the dead (Matthew 20:17-28; Mark 10:32-45; Luke 18:31-34).
3. In that same context, Jesus reprimanded James and John and warned them that they would suffer also as followers of Him.
4. Following this, Jesus came to the city of Jericho where He was approached by two blind men.

I. The Miracle

- A. This miracle was performed near the city of Jericho.
 1. While Luke's account seems to indicate that this miracle happened as they came into the city, Matthew and Mark say that it was as they left Jericho.
 2. However, there is no contradiction here.
 3. Luke simply states that they had "come nigh unto Jericho," which could happen either going or coming.
 4. Also, old Jericho was located very close to new Jericho (cf. Joshua 6:20-21, 26; 1 Kings 16:34; Luke 10:30).
- B. This miracle was performed on two men.
 1. While Mark and Luke mention only one man, Matthew tells us there were two.
 2. This is no contradiction; rather, it is supplementation.
 3. Mark tells us that one of the men was named Bartimaeus (meaning, the son of Timaeus or, possibly, son of honor), indicating that he was known in the area.
- C. This miracle was performed out of compassion.
 1. Bartimaeus was blind.
 2. Bartimaeus begged.
 3. Bartimaeus beseeched.
 4. Bartimaeus was brave.
 5. Bartimaeus benefited.

- D. This miracle was performed upon demonstration of faith.
 - 1. The city of Jericho was a powerful reminder of victory through faith.
 - 2. Yet, it also demonstrated that faith demands obedience (Hebrews 11:30-31; James 2:25).
 - 3. Bartimaeus had a faith that inquired (Luke 18:35-36).
 - 4. Bartimaeus had a faith that acted with persistence.
 - 5. Bartimaeus had a faith that followed in humility.
- E. This miracle was performed in the shadow of the cross.
 - 1. In spite of what He was facing, Jesus still had time to help others.
 - 2. His burden did not override His compassion or His service.

II. The Manifestation

- A. This miracle proved the power of Jesus as the Son of God.
- B. It also demonstrated His compassion toward those in desperate need.

III. The Message

- A. This miracle demonstrates the grace of God and man's need for it – blind and helpless.
- B. Persistence will give critics an opportunity to praise God.
- C. In order to come to Jesus, we must cast aside anything that hinders us (cf. Heb. 12:1-4).
- D. Healing must lead to following – especially spiritual healing.