

God With Us

A Study of Matthew: "Faith Not Sight"

Matthew 20:29-34

"And stopping, Jesus called them and said, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' They said to Him, let our eyes be open."
(Matthew 20:33-34)

I. Jesus Heals the Blind Men

- a. Jesus makes this text come alive as He heals through service. The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve. (Matt 20:28)
- b. Two blind beggars *see* who Jesus is, despite their blindness; they trust Him, they call on Him. They are healed, and at once they follow him.
- c. The blindmen cried out, *Son of David*, which refers to the Messiah's earthly rule.
- d. Their posture of "sitting" indicates they were not pilgrims but social outcasts. Hanging out on the outskirts of Jericho and the high place called Jerusalem.
 1. You could say they were between a rock and a hard place, but they heard about Jesus.
- e. What can we learn from the two blindmen's appeal to Jesus?
 1. They refused to accept discouragement when the crowd wanted them to be quiet.
 2. They cried out even louder. They were specific in their request, *let our eyes be opened*.
 3. Their faith was firm and centered in Jesus.
- f. Even a *blind* faith, if placed in Jesus, can bring a believer in contact with His healing grace.
- g. How many times have you seen people in a terrible situation, but they refuse to give Jesus a chance?
- h. After the healing, the men gratefully surrendered their lives to follow Jesus (v.34).
- i. The Pharisees and those in the crowd were blind to who Jesus was, but faith revealed the moment in time to receive a touch of healing. They walked by faith and not by sight.

II. Faith Comes From Hearing

- a. Jesus knew what the blindmen wanted even before they asked. Why did Jesus heal so publicly?
- b. He healed the blindmen so that their testimony could become public. *Faith comes by hearing*.
- c. Imagine for a moment the testimony of the blindmen. We do not know if they were blind from birth or by a tragic accident, but they were not welcomed.
- d. They found community with one another as outcasts and as untouchables.
- e. They were spiritually unclean and Jesus was the only one in the crowd who would touch them. (John 9)

III. Apply the Scriptures to Your Life

- a. This was a clear lesson for the disciples that is similar to the theme of the Good Samaritan story, "someone" must help when others do not.
- b. The church cannot hide within the "community crowd". We must help when others do not.
- c. How do you define a "public servant?"
- d. If Jesus is our example, we must also step out from the crowd and help those in society. We must be attentive to the cries and be willing to ask the question, *What do you want me to do for you?*