


A Blind Beggar Finds Salvation


Luke 18:31 - 43

Presented by Bob DeWaay
September 13, 2009



Overview

- The travel narrative points to events in Jerusalem
- A blind beggar cries out for help and is rebuked by Jesus' followers
- The blind beggar has amazing insight about Jesus' person
- The blind beggar is saved
- Unlike the rich ruler, the blind beggar follows Jesus



The travel narrative motif: going to Jerusalem to be rejected and killed

- **Luke 18:31**
Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished."

The Son of Man will be abused and killed by Gentiles

■ **Luke 18:32, 33**

“For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”

Messiah’s abuse and vindication

■ **Isaiah 50:6-8**

I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. For the Lord God helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me.

They cannot understand how God’s Messiah could be shamed!

■ **Luke 18:34**

But the disciples understood none of these things, and the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

The blind beggar and Zacchaeus narratives as a pair

- The blind beggar: God saves an oppressed person
- Zacchaeus: God saves an oppressor

(See Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*: 170 – 185)

Travel markers: approaching; road; going by

- **Luke 18:35, 36**

As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was.

An unexpected person has God-given insight: “Son of David”

- **Luke 18:37, 38**

They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Like the widow in the parable of the unjust judge, he persists!

■ **Luke 18:39**

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!"

Jesus' question is designed to elicit a faith response

■ **Luke 18:40, 41**

And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!"

The man is saved by faith

■ **Luke 18:42**

And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well."

The rich young ruler refused to follow Jesus; the blind man “follows”

■ **Luke 18:43**

Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.

Reversal

■ **John 9:39**

And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”

Implications and Applications

- 1) We all need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the significance of Messiah’s crucifixion
- 2) Spiritually, we are all hopeless beggars who can only be helped by a miracle of grace
- 3) Cry out to God for mercy while you have your chance

1) We all need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the significance of Messiah's crucifixion

■ **Luke 19:41, 42**

And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes."

1) We all need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the significance of Messiah's crucifixion

■ **Luke 24:45 - 47**

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

1) We all need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the significance of Messiah's crucifixion

■ **2Corinthians 3:15, 16**

But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

1) We all need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the significance of Messiah's crucifixion

■ **2Corinthians 3:17, 18**

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2) Spiritually, we are all hopeless beggars who can only be helped by a miracle of grace

■ **Ephesians 2:12**

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

2) Spiritually, we are all hopeless beggars who can only be helped by a miracle of grace

■ **Galatians 4:8, 9**

However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

3) Cry out to God for mercy while you have your chance

■ **Romans 10:12, 13**

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

3) Cry out to God for mercy while you have your chance

■ **Joel 2:32**

And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the Lord has said, Even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.
