The Blind Man and the Men of Jericho

Matthew 20:29-34

Mark 10:46-52

Luke 18:35-43
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Texts:

Matthew 20:29-34,

29. And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.
30. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.
31. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.
32. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?
33. They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.
34. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Mark 10:46-52,

46. And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.
47. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.
48. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.
49. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they called the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.
50. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.
51. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.
52. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Luke 18:35-43,

35. And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:
36. And hearing the multitude pass by he asked what it meant.
37. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.
38. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.
39. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.
40. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,
41. Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.
42. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.
43. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

Commentary:

Note: The healing of blind Bartimeaus is recorded in all three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke.

I. As Jesus approached, came to Jericho, as he went out from Jericho a great multitude followed him.
A. There were two Jerichos, the ancient one destroyed by Joshua and a neighboring rebuilt one nearby.

B. This healing took place between these places, as he left one and approached the other, a good place for beggars to solicit the traffic.

II. A blind man (Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus) was sitting by the roadside begging.

A. Matthew speaks of two blind men as having been healed of blindness on this occasion.

B. Mark and Luke confine their reports to one of these two.

III. When the blind man heard the noise of the crowd, he asked what was happening.

IV. They told the blind man, "Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus the Nazarene) is passing by."

V. The blind man called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

A. "Son of David" was a popular name for the Messiah.

B. How often have we cried to the Lord, "Have mercy on me?"

VI. Many, including some who led the blind man, rebuked him and told him to be quiet, hold his peace.

A. If Bartimaeus had listened to these people he would have remained blind for the rest of his life!

B. Be careful what advice you take!

C. Let no one keep us from seeking Jesus.
VII. The blind man paid no attention to the discouragers but shouted more and louder, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me!"

A. Jesus' enemies did not want him proclaimed as the Messiah.

B. They actually tried to silence these cries from these disabled blind beggars for help. What type character would lead to this terrible conduct?

VIII. Jesus stopped, stood still and ordered that the blind man be called, brought to him.

A. Bartimaeus' friends now spoke supportingly to him, "Be of good cheer: rise, he calls you."

B. When Jesus calls us to hear his word, to a work on his behalf, to receive his blessings, we also are filled with good cheer.

C. When Jesus calls we immediately arise and go to Jesus!

D. The blind man cast away his garment, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

1. He did not procrastinate, delay nor wait until he "got around to it."

2. Going to Jesus was Bartimaeus' top priority. It must be ours as well.

IX. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

A. Of course, Jesus knew what he wanted already.

B. God has done for us in answer to prayer things he would not have done had we not prayed.

C. Jesus was never deaf to the cries of the poor, the sick, the suffering, the blind.
D. Jesus' love for all did not allow the neglect of the suffering.

E. Do we ever because of a lack of love neglect the poor and needy?

X. The blind man replied, "Lord (Rabboni in Aramaic), I want to see."

A. How fervently this petition must have been made!

B. Jesus wants us to see the truth of his word and the salvation of our souls.

C. Do we want these things as much as this blind man wanted to physically see?

Note: "Rab" meant "master/teacher"; "Rabbi" meant "my master/my teacher"; "Rabboni" meant "my great master/teacher."

XI. Jesus granted the blind man's prayer,

A. touched the blind man's eyes and said,

B. receive your sight.

C. Go your way.

D. Your faith has healed you, made you whole.

1. Do we live a positive or negative life?

2. Do we have great faith, little faith or a variable faith?

Note: Jesus had compassion on these two blind men. May the Lord have mercy on us in our times of need as well.

XII. Immediately, the blind man received his sight, 20/20 vision.

A. Restoration of sight to the blind was a sign of the Messianic age.
1. Luke 4:18, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

2. Luke 7:21, And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

3. Isaiah 29:18, And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

4. Isaiah 35:5, Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

B. This is the last recorded miracle of healing in the book of Mark.

XIII. The man who had received his sight followed Jesus, praising God from whom he knew his sight had come.

A. Bartimaeus "went his way" which was one and the same as Jesus' way.

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

1. Luke speaks of Jesus’ approaching Jericho and Matthew speaks of Jesus’ departing from Jericho before meeting the blind men. How can these accounts be reconciled? 

2. Bartimaeus called out, “________________, __________ of ____________, have ____________ on ____________.”

3. When have we prayed in this way to God? 

4. Bartimaeus’ guides rebuked him, told him, to be quiet and hold his peace. What would have happened if Bartimaeus had heeded this bad advice? 

5. What bad advice have you been given? ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

6. The advice of Bartimaeus’ friends changed when Jesus ordered that the blind man be brought to him. Give Biblical and non-Biblical examples of such vacillation. ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

7. Would Bartimeaus have been healed if he had not prayed to Jesus? _____ Would we miss blessings if we did not pray?_______

8. Jesus had _____________ on the blind men, _______________ their _______________ and _______________ their _______________ received _______________.

9. How did these formerly blind men show their gratitude to Jesus? ____
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
10. Jesus said, “Your faith has healed you.” How would your life have been better if you had had more **positive** faith and less **negative** doubt?