

“BARTIMAEUS MEETS THE GREAT OPHTHALMOLOGIST”

I. Luke 18:35-43

A. Since Luke 9:51 Jesus has been resolutely bound for Jerusalem, for the Cross.

- 1) He's been telling lots of parables and healing sick people along the way...
- 2) He's befriended sinners of all stripes... Societal outcasts, Samaritans, women, children, tax collectors, poor beggars--all are drawn to Him... Is this cool or what!
- 3) He has been infuriating the Jewish leaders who are plotting His demise...
- 4) He has foretold His coming arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection...

B. Jesus has lived the perfect life. He has kept the Law completely. He is the *Righteous One* without sin. He has done this for His Father and He has done this for us...

- 1) Jesus heads for the Cross as a Lamb without spot or blemish...
- 2) He is driven to the Cross by love...
- 3) His death will satisfy God's justice and His resurrection will affirm His atonement was accepted. 2 Cor. 5:21. Are you a believer yet? And are you a witness?

C. Luke 18:35-43 is Jesus' encounter with a blind beggar...

- 1) Mark tells us the blind beggar is named Bartimaeus (*son of Timaeus*)...
- 2) Matthew's account says there were two blind men. Let's pretend the other blind man shares the same name as me and you...
- 3) Note: There was ancient Jericho and new Jericho. Matthew & Mark have Jesus leaving Jericho while Luke has them entering. Sort of like leaving old Pickerington and entering new Pickerington. Jerusalem and the Cross are now just 15 miles away...

D. Luke 18:35-43 Jesus comes walking into Jericho...

- 1) Bart hears the commotion and asks what was happening...
- 2) They tell Bart it's Jesus of Nazareth but Bart cries out, "*Jesus Son of David!*" (e.g. Well known Rabbi from can-anything-good-come-from-that-town vs Jesus the promised Messiah! It matters Who you cry out to!) Isaiah 11:1-2...
- 3) Bart cries out for *mercy* just like the tax collector in Jesus' parable. Though he's a beggar, he doesn't ask for money, he has a greater need than money...
- 4) The entourage rebukes him but Bartimaeus is persistent... Jesus hears!
- 5) Jesus stops, asks Bart to be brought to Him, asks Him what He wants Him to do, and Bart replies He wants to see. Jesus says, "*Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.*" (Gk: *Sozo, made well--healed, saved or made whole.*) I believe Bartimaeus received something far greater than 20/20 vision during this encounter!
- 6) Immediately Bart can see and he starts praising God and following Jesus! Others see the miracle and they also start praising God... May we see like Bart!

II. Communion

A. As we prepare to take the Bread & Cup, I am praying for us here (and beyond)...

- 1) I am praying for people to cry out to Jesus, not as the wise ancient moral guru-teacher from Galilee, but as Jesus the Christ, the Righteous One, God the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- 2) I'm praying for people to cry out for mercy rather than just for their felt needs to be met. Not for mere health & wealth in this world but for *True Treasure*...
- 3) I'm praying for the blind to see, for scales to fall from people's eyes, for us not to see men as trees walking but all things clearly. Put mud pies in our eyes Jesus!
- 4) I'm praying for Sozo, for the healing of blind spiritual eyes to be made well, for broken hearts to be made whole, for those under wrath to be saved...

B. Pray and serve Communion...

* Benediction verse: 1 Peter 1:8-9...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 18:35-43 (ESV)

35 As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. **36** And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. **37** They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." **38** And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" **39** And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" **40** And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, **41** "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my

sight.” **42** And Jesus said to him, “Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.” **43** And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Isaiah 11:1-2 (ESV)

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. **2** And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV)

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Some Great Video Clips

Blind Bartimaeus (With Song by *The Bishops*)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsutRRpmo3c>

You Begin With Faith, Then You See--Mark Driscoll

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvxvIGn1oRo>

Jesus Heals A Blind Man

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-gfCil3Pk0>

"Behold The Lamb" (Communion Hymn) - Keith & Kristyn Getty

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na8Xue4VEw4>

Strong's Greek Word Study - "Sozo" Meaning, Saved (4982)

http://www.logosapostolic.org/greek_word_studies/save_swzw_sozo_4982.htm

"Behold The Lamb of God" by Andrew Peterson (Live at the Ryman)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAyHhFjx4PM>

What's Heaven Like? - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxd14gcegdE>

Will God Forgive Me For Repetitive Sins? - Tim Keller Q & A

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNM3fR0-IW8>

Bonus Stuff

Mark 10:46-34 (ESV)

46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. **47** And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **48** And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” **49** And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” **50** And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. **51** And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” **52** And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Matthew 20:29-34 (ESV)

29 And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. **30** And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, [a] have mercy on us, Son of David!” **31** The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” **32** And stopping, Jesus called them and said, “What do you want me to do for you?” **33** They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” **34** And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

First Look

Author Unknown

From the *Westminster Teacher* I gleaned this story of an artist's daughter who lost her eye-sight when she was a baby. After her mother died the girl's father became her constant and affectionate companion. For years her blindness was considered incurable. Then a new type of surgery promised to restore her vision. Following the operation, as she lay in a darkened room with bandaged eyes, this one thought occupied her mind: Soon I shall see my dear father! When the days of waiting had passed, the dressings were removed and at last she looked into the compassionate face she had so long desired to see. Trembling with excitement, she closed her eyes, and then opened them again to convince herself she was not dreaming. As the one she loved took her into his arms she exclaimed, *"I've had such a good looking father all these years and didn't even know it!"*

- From Preaching.com; Message on God-Seeing, 2003.

Unnecessarily Blind

Author Unknown

A woman named Rose Crawford had been blind for 50 years. "I just can't believe it!" she gasped as the doctor lifted the bandages from her eyes after her recovery from delicate surgery in an Ontario hospital. She wept for joy when for the first time in her life a dazzling and beautiful world of form and color greeted eyes that now were able to see. The amazing thing about the story, however, is that 20 years of her blindness had been unnecessary. She didn't know that surgical techniques had been developed, and that an operation could have restored her vision at the age of 30. The doctor said, "She just figured there was nothing that could be done about her condition. Much of her life could have been different."

As I read the news account of her case, some question came to mind. Why did she continue to assume that her situation was hopeless? Had no one told her about the wonderful advances in eye surgery? Then I thought of the plight of those unreached by the Gospel. How many will go on living in moral blindness unless we bring them to the Savior? Millions will never know anything but spiritual darkness because no one has shared with them the Light that has come into the world. See Romans 10:14.

- From Preaching.com; Message on Spiritual Blindness, 2003.

Fanny Crosby

Author Unknown

The famous blind songwriter Fanny Crosby wrote more than 8,000 songs. This fact and other interesting highlights in the life of Miss Crosby were revealed by Warren Wiersbe in his book *Victorious Christian*. Wiersbe explained that when Fanny was only 6 weeks old a minor eye inflammation developed. The doctor who treated the case was careless, though, and she became totally and permanently blind.

Fanny Crosby harbored no bitterness against the physician, however. In fact, she once said of him, *"If I could meet him now, I would say thank you, over and over again for making me blind."* She felt that her blindness was a gift from God to help her write the hymns that flowed from her pen. According to those who knew her, Miss Crosby probably would have refused treatment even if it could have assured the restoration of her sight.

Wiersbe concluded by commenting: *"It was said of another blind hymn writer, George Matheson, that God made him blind so he could see clearly in other ways and become a guide to men. This same tribute could be applied to Fanny Crosby, who triumphed over her handicap and used it to the glory of God."* Yes, this talented woman allowed her tragedy to make her better instead of bitter. - From Preaching.com; Excerpt from Warren Wiersbe's book, *Victorious Christian*, retold by an unknown author...