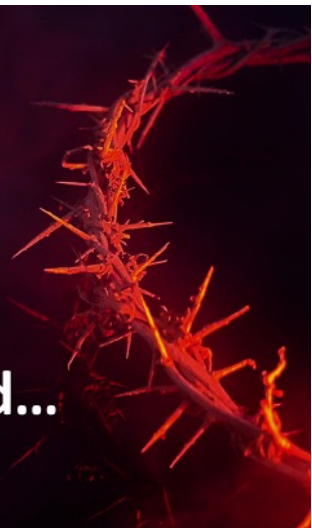


The Final Days

**There is None So Blind...
Luke 18:35-43**



This Week's Message
March 3, 2024

*The Final Days –
There Is None So Blind...*

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

Luke 18:42
(New International Version)

Sunday's Scripture Reading Luke 18:35-43

³⁵As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

³⁸He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

³⁹Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,

⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, I want to see," he replied.

⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

⁴³Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God

On Sunday, I will begin a new series of messages that will lead us into Easter. The title of the series is *The Final Days*, and in the series, we will study some of the stories that take place leading up to, and including, the last week of the life and ministry of Jesus.

We begin with a story that has several fascinating elements. It is a story told in Luke's gospel about a man who was blind. As Jesus was approaching the city of Jericho, on his way to Jerusalem, a crowd begins to gather. The blind man, hearing the commotion of the crowd, wants to know what is going on. When his is told that it was Jesus passing by, he begins to call out, *Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!* It is then that something I find to be very strange happens. Some in the crowd *rebuked him and told him to be quiet*. I find that to be strange. Very strange. Really, really strange. I mean, who yells at a blind man, especially when the man is only seeking help? I understand that when people gather in a crowd, it is not unusual for their collective IQ to drop more than a few points, but still, to yell at a man who is doing nothing more than asking for help? It's not as if the crowd wasn't making a good amount of

Questions to Consider –

* Why is it so hard to see what is right in front of us? What keeps us from truly *seeing*?

* What are your blind spots (although, to be honest, if we knew our blind spots, they wouldn't be blind spots, would they)? How can we discover our blind spots? Are we open to it when others suggest them? Does our study of Scripture and our time in prayer help us to come to an understating of them? Does worship help to point them out, and make us more aware of them?

* Does it surprise you at the lack of insight the disciples sometimes demonstrated? Have you ever wondered how they could miss what was so obvious? But, having said that, are we any different?

* In verse 39 of this week's text, Luke tells us that *those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"* Why in the world would they want to silence the man? Do you find that to be odd? Was it simply that his cries irritated them, or was there something deeper that was taking place?

noise themselves. So why would they rebuke the blind man?

One part of this odd story is to note who was rebuking the blind man – it was *those who led the way* (verse 39). I assume that those who were leading the way were, as the word indicates, *leaders*. Here is an important point – people will rise or fall to the level of their leadership. It really does matter who

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our leaders are. Good leaders can bring out the best in us, and bad leaders can bring out the worst in us. Leadership matters, and it matters greatly. This is why the failures of people in positions of leadership – be it moral, financial, spiritual or other kinds of failures – do so much damage. While some will say that the moral character, or other types of character, don't matter when it comes to our leaders, I cannot disagree more. The actions of our leaders do matter, and we can find not only plenty of historical examples of the damage done by failed leaders, we also find more than a few Biblical examples.

In the case of the blind man, we also see that need cannot be silenced. Perhaps those who rebuked the man did not want to be confronted by his need, or any need for that matter. Once we hear the cries of those in need, there is a sense of obligation that falls upon us. Once we hear those cries, we cannot unhear them. We cannot pretend those needs do not exist.

Through the healing action of Jesus, the life of the blind man was changed in a single moment. From blindness to sight, the man received the tremendous blessing of healing as his sight was restored. For the crowd, it was a moment to be amazed by the healing power of Jesus, but it was also a teachable moment. It was a moment that Jesus not only healed a blind man, but also pointed out the reality of spiritual blindness. How many in the crowd understood what Jesus sought to teach, however, is unknown to us. Some, surely, had their spiritual sight restored; others, presumably, did not.

Sometimes, people don't see what is right in front of them. That is true of us as well. Sometimes, we don't see, or perhaps don't want to see, what God puts right in front of us.

I hope to see you Sunday, and until then, God bless you!