

Matthew: Jesus the King Part 26

9/06/20

“Who Do You See?”

Text: Matthew 9:27-34

Introduction: Playing marbles with diamonds

Vance Havner states as an introduction to one of his books...

“In a day when tragedy has become comedy, we play fast and loose with eternal issues. The pearl of great price is not cheap! I have read that years ago in that part of Africa where diamonds in the rough were plentiful, a traveler chanced upon boys playing. Closer investigation revealed that they were playing marbles with diamonds!

God forgive us today if we handle god’s treasures as though they were trifles and the coinage of the eternal as though it were play money. Now is no time to play marbles with diamonds!

I wonder if this doesn’t happen to us all...

- I think that we all have the temptation to become TOO FAMILIAR with precious things...
- Too Familiar with eternal things perhaps...

And in doing so...

- We lose the awe and wonder of God.
- We forget the miraculous...
- We normalize faith...
- And can reduce our Savior Jesus to the status of an ordinary man... a wise teacher... and good example to follow.

He is so much more!

May I ask you a question?

- Why do you believe in Jesus?

Is it because of His Words?

- Truly He spoke like no other man who ever lived!
- Profound authority and authenticity came from His lips.

Jesus also made many verifiable predictions...

(Matthew 24.35)

35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away.

- It’s been 2000 years... and His Words are printed in more books than any other words.

What about The Golden Rule or the Lord’s Prayer?

- How many millions of people have repeated those words over the past 20 centuries?
- Even people who don’t go to church quote the words of Jesus!

And speaking of church...

(Matthew 16.18)

18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Think of how vast the church has become?
- Consider the influence that the church as had on nations and families.

The Ancient Empires of this world...

- Have all come to an end...
- The Babylonians, Persians, Medes, Greeks, Romans, Ottomans, the Third Reich and Soviet Communism...
- But the Church of Jesus Christ still stands.

What I want to explore with you today is...

- The Miracles of Jesus.
- Have we become too familiar with them as well?
- Have we lost the wonder of them?

Did you know that...

- No other person in all of human history did the miracles that Jesus did and had them verified and testified by so many people...
- And many of these people gave their lives for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

He healed...

- The sick of all sicknesses.
- Cleansed lepers.
- Opened blind eyes.
- Made the paralyzed to walk and deaf to hear.
- The dumb to speak.
- He cast out demons with a word.
- Raised the dead back to live.
- He even raised His own body from the grave!

What an impressive resume!

- A miracle worker that the world has never known.

But I want you to notice something about Jesus...

- Something that is often overlooked...
- And that is the WAY He healed.
- With compassion and empathy.
- And I want you to notice WHO Jesus healed.
- The outcasts, the demonized, the untouchables.
- The poor the rich... Romans and women... slaves and free.

No one in all of human history...

- Spoke the things that Jesus spoke.
- Did the miracles that Jesus did.
- Or showed compassion like Jesus.

Let's not dare...

- To play marbles with the precious diamonds of our Savior.
- *Let's come to His Word with the wonder...*
- Of those who witnessed Jesus' miracles for the first time.
- As we look at the 9th and 10th miracles recorded in the Gospel of Matthew today.

Prayer

Two Blind Men 9:27-31

(Matthew 9:27-31) 27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" 28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith

let it be to you.” 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” 31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

Notice something amazing about these two men...

- They exhibit faith in Jesus BEFORE they ever receive their sight!

Faith is the focus of this miracle....

(Matthew 9.28-29) 28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”

Like Pastor Aaron taught us last week...

- It’s important to note the OBJECT of our faith.
- For these men... it is Jesus!

(Matthew. 9.27) 27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”

“Son of David” - Was a Messianic title.

- Do you remember the first ones to call Jesus the Son of God in the Gospel of Matthew? (demons)
- These two blind men are the first to proclaim that Jesus is God’s promised Messiah!
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant. (Matthew 1:1) God’s Promised KING.

Let’s look at what Jesus says to them...

“Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

- Jesus is the object of their faith.
- As Christ-followers we place our faith in Jesus.
- We look to Him for Salvation.
- He alone is our LORD.

- But everyone has faith in something or someone.
Where is your faith today?

- Is it in yourself?
- Or perhaps it may be in your job or your spouse.
- Some people put their faith in the Government.

When we place our faith in anything...

- But Jesus Christ...
- We are making a false idol that takes the place which only God can fill... and has the right to.

But notice also what Jesus DID NOT ask them...

- He does not ask them if they believe that The FATHER in Heaven is able to heal them.

And look at what they asked for...

“Have MERCY on us!”

Can you imagine being blind in those days?

- There were no ADA regulations that cities and businesses followed.
- No one carried a white cane to identify themselves.

Blindness in Jesus’ day...

- Usually lead to a life of hardship and poverty.
- Most blind people were beggars.
- And blindness also had a stigma attached to it.

Blindness was...

- Part of the curse in Deuteronomy. 28:28
- The wicked men of Sodom were struck with blindness at Lot’s door. (Genesis 19:11)

- Elisha Prayed for the Lord to spike the Syrians with blindness. (2 Kings 6:18)
- And remember Sampson had his eyes gouged out by the Philistines for his sin and compromise.

But Blindness is not always a result of sin...

- Nor is it a form of judgment.
- Remember the man that Jesus healed who was born blind in John 9...
- Jesus said that his blindness was not the result of anyone's sin, but for the glory of God.

But... sin always carries some type of consequence...

- And it may have been that those consequences manifested in a physical way for these men.
- I wonder if these men were confessing their sins to Jesus when they were asking Him to have MERCY on their physical bodies.

Do you know what was the biggest need of these two blind men?

- It wasn't to be given the gift of sight.
- It was to be given the gift of forgiveness and mercy.

How are we to come in faith to Jesus for MERCY?

- What should that look like?
- I think we should come with FAITH - HUMILITY - PERSISTENCE.

Jesus passed by them...

- And they cried out, "Son of David, Have mercy on us!"

Did you know that this is the very first time...

- In the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus does not respond to a request for help?
- He acts like He does not even hear them!
- He ignores their plea for mercy and healing!!
- And keeps on walking...
- WHY?

I believe that He is...

- Testing their faith.
- Jesus goes into the house...
- And they simply follow right in after Him without being welcomed or acknowledged!

They are...

- Humble.
- Persistent.
- And they have faith in Jesus to heal them!

These men remind me of...

- The father of the dead girl.
- The woman with the issue of blood.
- And the four friends who tore off the roof of the house to get their friend to Jesus.

Humility - Persistence - Faith...

- Causes us to be absolutely determined to get to the presence of Jesus Christ.
- And that's Gospel Faith... Saving Faith.

And their faith in Jesus...

- Is spoken and shown BEFORE Jesus does the miracle!

And how does Jesus heal them??

(Matthew 9.29a) 29 Then He touched their eyes...

“He TOUCHED their eyes!”

- Jesus touched their disease-ridden, unclean, sin-infected eyes.

(Matthew 9.29-30) 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” 30 And their eyes were opened....”

“And their eyes were opened...” - What was the first thing they saw?

- The light of the sun?
- The surroundings of the house?
- No - It was the face of Jesus!

These now healed eyes...

- Found themselves looking right into the eyes of their Savior. WOW!!

And do you know what is the first thing...

- These two men did after being healed of their blindness?
- They disobeyed Jesus!
- YES, they did!

(Matthew 9.29-31) 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” 31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

What might you have done...

- If Jesus had healed you of your blindness that day?
- Could you have kept that a secret??!

- But this was a direct command of Jesus to them!

What happened to these men?

- They are so full of faith and humility.
- Why did they disobey what Jesus told them not to do?

I want to submit to you that...

- It may be that they had the same problem that most of us have...
- Once they received their sight...
- They no longer were walking as fully by FAITH.

Sometimes Jesus tells us to do...

- Things which seem unrealistic... or unwise.
- They go against our culture and our reasoning.

Will we obey...

- By faith... His commands?
- Or go by what seems best in our minds?
- Gauging obedience by the things we see.

One Deaf-Mute 9:32-34

(Matthew 9.32-34) 32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. 33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!” 34 But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

It's believed that this man...

- Was both mute and deaf.
- And his condition was due to a demon that had caused this ailment.

There are only two miracles so far...

- And this is number 10 if you are counting in the Gospel of Matthew...
- Where Jesus heals someone without being asked.
- Peter's mother in law...
- And this deaf-mute man.

You may say...

- "Pastor Steve, this man CAN'T ask Jesus to heal him!"
- He can't speak, remember??!

But there may be a larger purpose to this miracle...

- What is the most amazing thing that happens after this man is healed?
- It's not the healing... Jesus has healed before.
- It's not that the demons are cast out... Jesus has cast out demons before.
- It's not that Jesus heals without even being asked to do so... Jesus has healed without being asked before.

What IS Unique about this miracle is...

- That is reveals the blindness in the hearts of the Pharisees more clearly than ever!

Did you notice that the crowds...

- Marvel?
- "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

But what do the Pharisees do?

- They don't marvel.
- They refused to believe.

Although they have seen...

- With their own eyes...
- The leper cleansed.
- The paralyzed man walking.
- The demons cast out
- The blind receiving their sight.

The Pharisees accuse Jesus of...

- Healing by the power of the devil himself!

This is even more amazing when you read...

- Speaking of the coming of Messiah...
(Isaiah 35.5-6) 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

They are blind to...

- God's Word...
- And therefore they are blind to God's Son.
[Repeat this....
- We have this happening in our world right now.
- If you are blind to God's Word...
- You will also be blind to God's Son.

The Centurion Roman...

- Sees Jesus for who He is.

The Tax Collector Matthew...

- Sees Jesus for who He is.

Sinners and seekers...

- See Jesus for who He is.

The blind men...

- See Jesus for who He is.
But these Jewish Religious Leaders...

- Are blind to who Jesus is.
- They are not blind physically...
- But spiritually.
- They cannot... and will not... See Jesus.

After Jesus heals the blind men in John 9...

(John 9.39) 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."

What do you see today?

- Do you see Jesus...
- The Promised Son of God.
- The Savior of the World.
- The One who died on the cross for your sins..
- The One full of mercy and grace.
- The One who has compassion on all who come to Him?
- The One that we come to in humility...
- Hungry for His presence and goodness.

You see...

- Jesus is precious...
- More precious than diamonds.

But we, like the little African school boys...

- Can become so familiar with Jesus.
- That we treat Him as common...
- That we reduce the Christian life to a set of rules.

- And we make walking by faith a game of chance.

Communion Focus

- Worship Team (already in place and ready) begins with a song as the people get their Communion Elements ready.
- Living Hope - Phil Whitham

We take the Bread...

- And remember that You gave your Body for us.
- To be tortured and humiliated.
- To be beaten and broken.
- All because of LOVE.
- May we never stop being amazed by your sacrifice for our sins.
-

We take the Cup...

- And remember that You gave every drop for us.
- That you washed away our sins with the only element which could cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Peter the Apostle wrote...

(1 Peter 1.18-19) 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.