

Jesus' Final Miracle

Mark 10:46-52

October 20, 2013

Introduction

The healing of blind Bartimaeus is the sum and center of Mark's focus on faith and discipleship. For faith, the contrast between the rich young ruler and this blind man is so stark. The rich man has everything he needs yet misses everything because he has no faith in the Son of God. The blind beggar has nothing yet gains everything when he places his faith in the Son of David. He also follows Jesus and becomes His disciple.

Mark 10:36 *"What do you want Me to do for you?" He asked.*

Mark 10:51 *"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.*

For discipleship, Mark puts the two questions in the side-by-side accounts. Jesus asks both questions to two different expectations. James and John want to be elevated in honor and glory; whereas, the blind man only wants to be able to see. Jesus teaches the disciples that to be great in the Kingdom, one has to be humble. And here, the lowliest of the low, the social outcast is elevated in the Kingdom to reign with Christ. He is humbled before Christ. Not

This passage is actually the final miracle of mercy that Jesus performs in His ministry. The resurrection is the final miracle, but this is the last miracle that Jesus does. It is fitting that Jesus does it in the border of Israel, starting with Cana with the water to wine to the healing of a blind man in Jericho. From this point to the cross, Jesus performs no public miracle (except for the cursing of the fig tree, which is not a positive miracle).

After the healing of the blind man, He is the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief. He heads into Jerusalem to experience the national rejection. His people did not know Him. Israel is entering the greatest apostasy in the history of mankind. They are so ungodly that they are pleased to crucify the Messiah. During the last week of Jesus' life, there are no conversions. This causes Jesus to weep for Jerusalem

Matthew 23:37-39 *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

Interestingly, there are a pair of bookended salvation. First pair of salvation is prior His entry to Jerusalem, and the second pair happens during His time on the cross. In Jericho, the blind man and Zacchaeus place their faith in Jesus and follow Him. Then at the cross, the thief and the centurion both believe. Two souls in Jericho stand in direct contrast with the nation of Israel.

Let us celebrate when we study the joy of Jesus' final miracle that culminates to a saved soul!

46 *Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and His disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging.*

- They came to Jericho
 - Map
 - OT Jericho

- Famous in Joshua—a city of antiquity
- Destroyed by the Israelites
- NT Jericho
 - Built few miles south of the ruins of old Jericho
 - Known as City of Palms—many trees (well-known for its balsam tree)

Deuteronomy 34:3 *the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.*

- Known for its spring

2 Kings 2:18-22 *When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?" 19 The men of the city said to Elisha, "Look, our lord, this town is well situated, as you can see, but the water is bad and the land is unproductive." 20 "Bring me a new bowl," he said, "and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. 21 Then he went out to the spring and threw the salt into it, saying, "This is what the LORD says: 'I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.' " 22 And the water has remained wholesome to this day, according to the word Elisha had spoken.*

- Garden city—Mark Antony gave city to Cleopatra
- Herod built summer home there—much warmer than Jerusalem
- Many priests lived here during their off-duty (as seen in Good Samaritan story)
- He went out of Jericho
 - Coming in or going out?

Luke 18:35 *As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.*

- No contradiction, means He was in the vicinity of Jericho, coming in and out
- Large crowd
 - Lined up streets to see Him
 - Curiosity seekers
 - Fame spread from Bethany in His raising Lazarus from the dead a few weeks back

John 11:54 *Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews. Instead He withdrew to a region near the desert, to a village called Ephraim, where He stayed with His disciples.*

- Short distance between Ephraim and Jericho
- Bartimaeus
 - Matthew says there were 2 blind beggars—Mark and Luke focuses on one
 - Son of Timaeus
 - Well-known believer at that time
 - Blind
 - Social outcast
 - Beggar—only thing they can do
 - Jewish teaching regarded blind people as cursed by God

Note: Jesus said that the Pharisees are blind leaders of the blind. This is an insult not overlooked by the Pharisees.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Luke 18:36-37 When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. **37** They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

- He began to cry out
 - Strong Greek word—desperate, repeated shout
- Jesus, Son of David
 - He does not use "Jesus of Nazareth"
 - Son of David
 - Messianic title

2 Samuel 7:12-14 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be his Father, and he will be My son.

- Not ultimately fulfilled in Solomon
- The Greater Son will rule forever

Luke 1:31-33 You will be with Child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, **33** and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.

- Blind man sees Jesus as the Messiah
- Have mercy on me
 - Recognition that he needs mercy
 - He believes himself to be cursed by God, a vile sinner

48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

- They wanted him to be quiet
 - He is a nuisance (according to Jewish view)
 - They care nothing of his helpless state
- Cried out all the more
 - He is persistent—he will fight for that mercy
 - His faith rises to the highest possible level
 - His heart has seen the light before he is physically able to see
 - This is the pearl of great price, treasure in the field, Jacob wrestling with God

Note: The rich young ruler came to Jesus with a need, but he never fights for that mercy because he did not see himself as a vile sinner. How do we know that he knows he is a sinner? Because of Jesus' comment of about his faith saving him.

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

- No hesitation!
- Someone led him to Jesus

51 "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

- Gentle question to get the ultimate response
 - Jesus becomes a servant here
 - He goes down to the lowliest of the low and grants the blind man both the physical healing and spiritual freedom
- Rabbi

Luke 18:41 "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.

- Bartimaeus notes Jesus' claim of being the Messiah—the Promised One of Israel
- His theology is right
- He seeks freedom from the burden of his spiritual blindness

Matthew 5:3-8 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Matthew 20:34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed Him.

Luke 18:42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

- Your faith has made you well
 - Sozo Gk for saved—your faith has saved you
 - Salvation
 - Physical healing
 - The man had no doubt—no wavering of the faith
- Immediately he received sight
 - Creation act that only God can do...only Jesus can do
- Followed Jesus on the road
 - He glorified God and followed Jesus
 - He might have been part of the 120 that met with the Apostles in the Upper Room (**Acts 1:15**)

We have been in this same place. Blind and desperate we cry out to Jesus. He passed by, heard us and He saved us. His salvation is made possible with the road to Jerusalem to the cross and out of the opened tomb.