



“JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD” ([Acts 2:22](#))

Miracle #35 – “BLIND MAN AT JERICHO”

[Luke 18:35-38,39-42,43](#)

A Calvin free zone

THE TEXT:

*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.*

Dear Reader, while there are many lessons and insights from this miracle, the following are only a few points to consider:

1. A brief history of Jericho

Dear Reader ... a city of contrasts ... with healings, death, violence, salvations and so on ... let us be reminded of some ... just out of interests ... as a general introduction ...

- (a) In absolute contrast to its desert surroundings, Jericho thrived as a fertile, spring-fed oasis. In the Old Testament, it was often called the “**City of Palms**” for its abundance of palm trees ([Deuteronomy 34:3](#); [Judges 1:16](#); [3:13](#); [2 Chronicles 28:15](#)).
- (b) After the destruction of Jericho, Joshua placed a **curse** on anyone who might rebuild the city ([Joshua 6:26](#)).
- (c) Jericho remained unoccupied until the time of the prophets **Elijah** and **Elisha**, about **500** years later.
- (d) Jericho is mentioned briefly in the book of Judges, which says that Jericho served as a provincial outpost for Eglon the King of **Moab** who held **Israel under tribute for 18 years** ([Judges 3:13](#)).
- (e) In [1 Chronicles 19:5](#), King David sent word for his mistreated delegates to remain in Jericho until **their beards regrew**.
- (f) In [2 Kings 2:4-18](#), Jericho appears to have been the home of a “**school of the prophets.**” (g) Reported at Jericho was Elisha’s miraculous **purifying of a spring** ([2 Kings 2:19-22](#)).

- (h) During the reign of Ahaz, a **group of prisoners** was spared, clothed, fed, and cared for at Jericho (2 Chronicles 28:15).
- (i) The final Old Testament mention of events in Jericho was the **capture of King Zedekiah** after fleeing the Chaldean army ([2 Kings 25:2-5,6-7](#); [Jeremiah 39:5](#); [52:8](#)).
- (j) [Ezra 2:34](#) and [Nehemiah 7:36](#) report that the number of Jericho's inhabitants after the return from exile under Zerubbabel was 345.
- (k) The **good Samaritan** "went down from Jerusalem to Jericho" ([Luke 10:30](#)).

2. Jericho is the city with the most blindness miracles.

Jericho totally 'blind' and destroyed except for **Rahab** the harlot ([Joshua 2:1](#))

Zacchaeus ([Luke 19:1-4,5-8,9-10](#)) ... he was 'blind' then saw Christ

Bartimaeus ([Mark 10:46-52](#))

Blind man ([Luke 18:35-38,39-42,43](#))

Two blind men near the city of Jericho ([Matthew 20:29-34](#))

3. Blindness in the Bible is a figure of man's ignorance and darkness.

For example [Isaiah 42:7, 18](#); [2 Corinthians 4:4](#); [Ephesians 4:18](#); [Revelation 3:17](#); [Romans 11:25](#); [Luke 6:39](#); [Matthew 23:26](#)

Furthermore, this applies not only to the unsaved ... but also to the saved, secure and comfortable saints sitting in churches willingly ignorant with unsound doctrine ([2 Timothy 4:3](#)) ... refusing to **rightly** study the word ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

4. His persistence and perseverance

The Lord often waited for time when people called on him. He desired to test the reality of their desire. Perseverance and a refusal to be daunted are marks of true faith.

5. Christ often asked question of those he healed

He likes the sinner to tell him his need and express his belief and faith in his own words.

"Wilt thou be made whole?" ([John 5:6](#))

"Believe ye that I am able to do this?" ([Matthew 9:28](#))

"Whom say ye that I am?" ([Matthew 16:15](#))

"What wilt thou?" ([Mark 10:51](#))

"Lovest thou me?" ([John 21:15](#))

"Where are the nine?" ([Luke 17:17](#))

"Will ye also go away?" ([John 6:67](#))

6. Jesus never to pass that way again

Bartimaeus had his last opportunity and made good use of it ... however he did not know this at the time. Today ... if people only knew that they were hearing the gospel for the last time.

As one evangelist said to an unsaved man “If you knew that this was the last time you could accept the Lord, what would you do?”

7. Those around the blind beggar were blind

Gatekeepers can assume importance beyond their station. Those around the blind man needed to be cured of their blindness.

8. This man knowledge and belief was the foundation of his faith

- (a) Bartimaeus **knew** who Jesus was ... and if he didn't know, he would have also asked who is Jesus of Nazareth.
- (b) Bartimaeus **believed** Jesus was the promised Messiah ... he acknowledged him as the Son of David in accordance with Bible prophecy ([Isaiah 9:7](#)).
- (c) Bartimaeus **knew** that Jesus could heal him ... he asked Jesus to have mercy on him.

As Christ had not gone to the cross, it had to be the blind beggar's faith that saved him ([Habakkuk 2:4](#)) ... compared with today ... our salvation is based on our free will belief ... and it is the faith of Jesus Christ that saves us ([Galatians 2:16, 20](#))

9. The way side beggar

Generally, the gospel seed cast on the way side was quickly eaten ([Matthew 13:4](#)) ... but not this time ... this blind beggar had it in his heart ... and that it could not be stolen.

10. Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

There were many men called Jesus but **only one Jesus of Nazareth** ... the Son of David.

11. Persistence pays off ...

This blind man cried so much the more ... **thou Son of David ... twice**. There are no coincidences in the Bible Dear Reader, Jesus as the **2nd** in the Godhead has **two appeals** for help.

Indeed we are reminded of two cases of people who never gave up ... the **man at midnight** asking a friend with importunity ([Luke 11:8](#)) with persistence to the point of annoyance ... and the **woman with judge** ([Luke 18:2-3](#)).

12. This miracle was a Calvin free zone

Look Dear Reader, if this blind beggar was **selected** to be healed by Christ there would have been no need to go on and on about it.

Firstly, Christ would have heard him the first time the man cried out ... I mean ... Christ, being pressed in the crowd, knew instantly about the woman with an issue of blood ... she didn't have to cry out and so on.

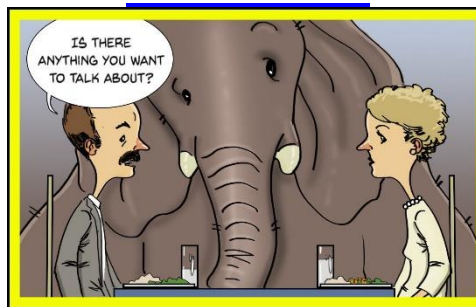
Secondly, Christ wouldn't be asking the man ... *What **WILT** thou that I shall do unto thee?* ([Luke 18:41](#)) ... thereby signifying a **free will choice**.

Conclusion:

Jericho ... a city of blindness and destruction ... destroyed by Joshua, but remembered with accounts of **free will healings** by Christ.

Truly, **all ... without exception ... may have the blindness of sin washed away ... immediately ... and to the glory of the Lord** ([Luke 18:43](#); [Revelation 1:5](#))

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