

BLIND MEN OF JERICHO RECEIVED SIGHT

Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus and the two blind men

Key-location: Outside of Jericho

Key-repetitions:

- Beggars' actions: heard crowd (Lk 18:36); asked what was happening (Lk 18:35); shouted to Jesus (Lk 18:38); jumped up and went to Jesus (Mk 10:50); answered Jesus' question (Mk 10:51); followed Jesus and praised God (Lk 18:43).
- Crowd's actions: followed Jesus (Mat 20:29); told beggars that Jesus was passing by (Lk 18:37); scolded the blind beggars (Lk 18:39); told beggars Jesus was calling them (Mk 10:49); praised God (Lk 18:43).
- "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" (Mat 20:30, 31; Mk 10:47, 48).
- Praised: healed blind man praised God (Lk 18:43); the people praised God (Lk 18:43).

Key-attitudes:

- Blind men's desperation.
- Crowd's scornfulness of blind men calling out to Jesus.
- Blind men's trust in Jesus.
- Jesus' compassion for blind men.
- Blind men's joy over healing.
- Crowd's excitement over witnessing healing.

Initial-situation:

Jesus was in the second half of his third year of public ministry. Religious leaders' antagonism toward Jesus increased. The people flip-flopped between excitement for Jesus when he performed a miracle, and anger toward Jesus when they didn't like his teaching. Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Previously Jesus warned his disciples three times that in Jerusalem he would die and come back to life. As he traveled, Jesus interacted with the crowd that followed him, and he constantly found teaching moments for his disciples. Jesus left the town of Jericho, heading toward Jerusalem. Jericho was seventeen miles northeast and 3,500 feet below Jerusalem. The crowd that accompanied Jesus was made up of Passover pilgrims.

Initial-problem:

Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho and a large crowd followed him. Two blind beggars were sitting and begging by the roadside.

Final-situation:

Jesus touched the blind beggars' eyes. Immediately they could see again and they followed Jesus down the road, praising God. The people who saw the miracle also praised God.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho and a large crowd followed him. Two blind beggars sat and begged by the roadside. One of the blind men was named Bartimaeus. (*His name means "son of an honored one."*)

The blind beggars heard the crowd passing by. They asked what was happening. The people told them that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. The blind men shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

The crowd scolded the blind beggars and told them, "Shut up!" But the blind beggars shouted even louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Jesus stopped and called the blind men. The people told the blind men, "Get up! He's calling you." The blind men jumped up, and went to Jesus.

Jesus asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

They answered, "Lord, we want our eyesight back."

Jesus had compassion on them. Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." Immediately the blind beggars could see again and they followed Jesus down the road, praising God. All the people saw it and they also praised God (Mat 20:29-34; Mk 10:46-52; Lk 18:35-43).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What title did the beggars use for Jesus?
2. How did the crowd react to the blind beggars?
3. How did Jesus react to the beggars?
4. How did the blind beggars display their faith in Jesus?
5. The blind men begged Jesus for sight. What are you "begging" Jesus for?
6. If Jesus asked you, "What do you want me to do for you?" what would be your answer?
7. What has been the greatest miracle you have experienced in your life?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **A person's status in life can change.** The name Bartimaeus means "son of an honored one." At one time Bartimaeus had been the son of an honored man. Later he became a blind beggar.
2. **Jesus demands people to make specific requests to him.** Jesus asked the blind men, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mat 20:32).
3. **Those who are considered ignorant may have more spiritual insight than those who are considered intelligent.** The blind beggar called Jesus "Son of David." This was a title for the Messiah in Isaiah 11:1-3. The blind beggar saw that Jesus was the Messiah, while the educated religious leaders were blinded to his identity (Lk 18:38).
4. **The men who were healed of blindness in Jericho, illustrate the steps for becoming a follower of Jesus:**
 - **Hear about Jesus** (Mat 20:30; Mk 10:47).
 - **Call out to Jesus, believing he is the only source for help** (Mat 20:30).
 - **Be aware of one's own destitute position.** They appealed to Jesus for mercy (Mat 20:30; Lk 18:9-14).
 - **Persevere** in spite of opposition from others (Mat 20:31; Lk 18:39).
 - **Follow Jesus** (Mk 10:50-52; Lk 18:43).
 - **Praise God** (Lk 18:43).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Pantomime Retelling of the Story:**

The storyteller tells the story one time. Then the storyteller:

 - Asks for three volunteers to pantomime different characters in the story: Jesus, a person in the crowd, and one of the beggars.
 - Retells the story with the participants pantomiming their part at the appropriate time.
 - Invites a listener to retell the story.
2. **Interaction with Characters in Story:**

Invite listeners to interact with characters in the story with a question. What would you like to say:

 - To the people who told the blind beggars, "Shut up!"?
 - To the blind beggars who heard "Shut up!" from the crowd?
 - To the crowd who witnessed the healing of the blind beggars?