

Three More Healings ***(Matthew 9:27-34)***

The miracles performed by the Lord Jesus starting in chapter 8 were meant to validate His claims to be the Messiah; be they His power over bodily diseases (Matt. 8:1-17), His power over nature when He stilled the storm (Matt. 8:23-27), His power over the forces of evil when He cast out the demons (vv. 28-34); His power to forgive sins (Matt. 9:1-8), and His power over death as He raised a little girl back to life (Matt. 9:18-26).

Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 29:17-19 speaks of "healing of the blind, the deaf and the mute..." as some of the things which the Messiah will do when He comes. This is what Matthew shows in our text. The story contains three significant truths:

1. *Their _____ condition drives them to Jesus*

We are introduced to two men who were blind who were very earnest in their desire for healing. They followed Jesus, crying and begging Him for His mercy. People who see and rightfully acknowledge their desperate need are drawn to Jesus (Mark 2:17, cf. Matt. 9:12; Luke 5:31).

2. *The _____ of their faith is the _____ of Jesus*

Matthew points out that the focus of faith must be on Christ Himself. The blind men cried out: "*Son of David, have mercy on us!*" "Son of David" was the common Jewish title for the Messiah (Matt. 1:1; cf. Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 21:12; 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12-14a,16). Jesus is the promised descendant of David who would deliver God's people and establish His eternal Kingdom (Luke 1:69; 2:4; Matt. 21:9; 22:9, John 7:42; Acts 2:29-30; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 5:5; 22:16). These blind men also recognized their unworthiness; realizing that they did not have anything to boast of. They knew that they were undeserving, and that is why they asked for God's mercy (Titus 3:5; Hebrews 2:17).

3. *The _____ of their faith is the _____ of Jesus*

Jesus asked them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' in order to hear the affirmation of their faith in their own confession. It takes faith to be saved and so Jesus wanted to bring these men to saving faith – a faith that confesses Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9). Faith is the means to appropriate the gift of God's salvation and the power of God's deliverance. Faith also determines the measure and often the manner of the gifts of our Lord.

Jesus told them not to tell anyone of their healing (v. 30) because it was not yet in line with God's timetable; but they did anyway (v. 31).

A mute and demon possessed man was also brought to Jesus and was also healed (vv. 32-33).

The story of the two blind men is an analogy of spiritual blindness. Like them, sinners are spiritually desperate too; without hope and without God in this world (Eph. 2:12), unable to discern the truth. But when truth is presented through the person of Jesus, there is recognition of one's unworthiness. Then faith comes as the sinner believes on Jesus and embraces Him as Lord and Savior. Their (spiritual) blindness is then removed. Now being able to see God's goodness, they resolve to live their life for His use and His glory. Has this happened to you?