

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Blindness: Physical vs Spiritual

Last time...the healing of 2 daughters – Jairus’s daughter and the woman with an issue of blood

This time...blindness

- physical vs spiritual
- involuntary vs voluntary
- healed vs not healed

We will be in Matt 9 and Mark 6

Matt 9

v27 Jesus departed thence:

After healing 2 daughters (v26), Jesus leaves Capernaum

As we shall see later in the study, He is returning to His hometown of Nazareth

Why does Jesus leave Capernaum?

He showed Himself the Messiah with the healing of the woman with the issue of blood...as she testified to the multitude (Luke 8:47)

Num 15:37-40

Mal 4:2

He raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead...for the 2nd time demonstrated that He had power over death

The multitude was already excited to see Him upon His return from the Gadarenes, now the excitement level of the people may have been “off the charts”

We see repeatedly in His ministry that Jesus “cuts short” His stay in places where the emotional state of the people is rabid by leaving to go somewhere else

Why?

Reason #1: God’s Plan of Redemption – Come let us reason together

- The Father sent Him away...the Father wanted the people to carefully and rationally consider Jesus’ teachings (the words of the Father)
- His miracles were not to drown out His teaching
- He would not allow His mission to be derailed or “hijacked” by the (carnal and usually irrational) emotions of the people
- Emotions change, the doctrine of God endures
- He had a mission from the Father, a mission different than the nation’s idea of their Messiah

On the way from Capernaum and to Nazareth...
a distance of 40 miles, therefore a 2 day journey...
two blind men follow Jesus

They cry out to Jesus, in a most significant way:
“Son of David”...a very distinct Messianic title
2 Sam 7:12-13

- from the line of David
- a throne and a kingdom forever

Is 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever

This is the 1st time anyone has so directly addressed Jesus
Matt 12:23 was a question, the blind men address Him properly –
the promised Son of David, the Messiah

They cry out for mercy (to be healed of blindness) to the Messiah
They are blind (physical sight)...yet they see clearly (spiritual sight)!

v28 come into the house...Believe ye that I am able...Yea, Lord:
The 2 blind men resolutely followed Jesus for some distance
(upwards of ~20 miles)...to the half-way point to Nazareth and the house
where Jesus would spend the night

Thus, it seems that Jesus did not heal them immediately
Perhaps Jesus was testing their faith;
they clearly have faith in Him, it must be tested

When Jesus enters this house after a walk of about 20 miles, the two blind men
boldly approached Him
Then Jesus asks them an important question, a question that demands an answer
Do you believe...have faith, trust
I am able to open the eyes of the blind?
(Do you believe that I am in fact the Messiah?)

Is 35:4-6

Their answer is immediate and definitive: Yes, Lord (*kurios*, God, Lord, Master)
A resounding profession of Who Jesus is and their faith in Him

v29-30a touched...eyes were opened:

Then Jesus touched...gently I am sure...the eyes of the two blind men
and told them their faith was rewarded – they received sight,
He opened their eyes to the physical light

According to your faith

They can now see NOT because of their faith but in accordance with their
faith in Him, agreeing with the Word of God regarding Who He
is...the Author and Finisher of faith

And according to the Word of God, this healing of blindness makes Jesus:

- LORD
Ps 146:8 The LORD openeth *the eyes of* the blind
- The Holy One of Israel
Is 29:18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the
book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of
obscurity, and out of darkness.
- The Servant of the LORD
Is 42:7 to open the eyes of the blind

v30b-31 no man know...spread abroad His fame:

Jesus tells the two blind man what He told Jairus and his wife (Mark 5:43):
Tell no one of this matter

Why not?

- His miracles were not to drown out His teaching
The teaching: I am the Messiah
The miracle: proof of the teaching
More important: the teaching
- seeing was for those who believed, not for those who did not believe
Matt 13:10-16

But the two blind men...disobeyed

Was it possible for two formerly blind men to hide the fact that they now see?
ala v26, Jesus' reputation spread

Jesus' popularity continues to rise...but so does the opposition to Him

v32-34 dumb man possessed with a devil:

As the two no-longer-blind men leave Jesus, rejoicing and praising Him,
a man possessed with a dumb demon was brought to Him

Remember:

- what the Pharisees taught the people about a dumb demon:
The Pharisees could cast out demons if the demon spoke.
They always asked its name, then would use this bit of information to cast it out
If the demon (-possessed man) is mute, the Pharisees would be unable to have the demon verbally identify itself, so they were powerless to cast it out
Citing Is 35:4-6, a dumb demon can be cast out by the Messiah because only he could communicate with a demon that “could not” communicate
- how the Pharisees responded the last time Jesus cast out a dumb demon: Matt 12:22-24
- this resulted in a turning point in Jesus’ ministry: henceforth He taught the people only in parables

Not one to let any of His beloved to be possessed/oppressed/tormented by a demon, Jesus cast out the dumb demon

The freed man then spoke...and the multitudes gathered marveled at this “unseen” miracle – they have never seen such a mighty work as this!

In every multitude were representatives of the scribes and Pharisees...

keeping book on all Jesus said and did

They respond like they did the first time

The Pharisees are sticking to the party line, even after

- Jesus taught the Parable of the Sower (1st Kingdom Parable)
- perhaps, hearing the testimony of His disciples (after all, Acts 26:26)
 - Jesus calming the sea and the winds by His merely with His spoken word
 - Jesus casting out Legion and his gang from the man in the Gaderenes
- hearing the testimony to the multitude of the woman with the issue of blood
- hearing of Jesus raising Jairus’ daughter from the dead
- hearing the testimony of the no-longer-blind men

In spite of the mounting evidence, the Pharisees refuse to believe Jesus is the Messiah

Herein lies, perhaps Reason #2 why Jesus left Capernaum...the unbelief and growing irrational opposition to Him by the religious leaders

When Jesus left Capernaum in v27,

- Capernaum ceased to be His ministry HQ
(Note: now is only ruins)
- Jesus henceforth had no certain dwelling place...
v28a is the new normal

Now, Jesus continues His journey to Nazareth

Mark 6

v1-3 from thence...into His own country:

Mark 5:43...Gospel of Mark is the most chronological

The healing of the two blind men and the man possessed with a dumb demon
(Matt 9:27-34) takes place after the comma and before “and came into His
own country”

This is Jesus 2nd visit to His hometown

The 1st visit (Luke 4:16-31)

- He was alone...His disciples were not with Him
- ended violently with an attempted assassination by His hometown
folks (wanting to throw Him off the cliff)
- with Jesus moving thru their midst, on His way to be baptized by
John the Baptist

Now, between 1 and 2 years later, Jesus returns to Nazareth

As He did on the 1st visit, Jesus taught in the synagogue

(at the request of the ruler of)

The people of Nazareth are amazed/astonished at His teaching...

this time filled with questions, doubt, and unbelief vs violence

The people have “an edge” about them...a sharp edge of unbelief and contempt

- Where does this man get these things he is teaching?
- What kind of wisdom is this that he has?
- How does he do all these miracles?

- Is this not the carpenter?
 - a lowly, humble occupation...certainly not royal
 - no mention of Joseph, the husband of Mary
 - in the parallel passage in Matt 13:55...
 - Is not this the carpenter's son?
 - no mention, perhaps no knowledge of, the virgin birth
 - Joseph is NOT Jesus' Father
 - this is the only way they “knew” Him, the only way they can “see” Him
- Is this not the son of Mary?
 - again, no mention, perhaps no knowledge of, the virgin birth
- Is this not the brother of?
 - James/Jacob
 - Joses
 - Juda/Jude
 - Simon
 - sisters...2 or more
 - all: blood relatives, children of Joseph and Mary
(contrary to what the apostate Roman Church teaches)
 - none: believed He was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God
until AFTER His resurrection (John 7:5, Acts 1:14);

Then James: early pastor of Church in Jerusalem
“author” of Epistle of James
Jude: “author” of Epistle of Jude

At this point, his brothers and sisters...are not!
(Matt 12:47-50);

If knowing of the virgin birth, how blind are they!

The townsfolk were offended at Jesus...stumbled, tripped up, did not believe
Their questions/doubts/objections did not spurn a search of the Scriptures
to see if these things Jesus said and did be true

In their minds (they knew Him for 30 years before all this “religious stuff”
started) and according to the teaching of the scribes and Pharisees
regarding the Messiah, the words and deeds (miracles) of Jesus did not
jive with what they “knew”

Therefore, Jesus was wrong, they were not

“This fella grew up in our midst, lived here as an ordinary citizen for 30 years.
He was a nice kid, a very good carpenter, a model citizen.
He really didn’t stand out as special, but now he is saying things and doing
things that have people all over the Galilee saying that He is
Someone VERY special.
We just cannot believe it, see it....that is not the man we know.”

The citizens of Nazareth stumbled over a contradiction....
their pre-conceived notions were contradictory to the evidence

v4 prophet not without honor:

To their stumbling unbelief Jesus says:

A prophet receives honor, except in his hometown among his kinsfolk and
family...who give him no honor

A prophet is not despised, except in his own hometown, and by his
relatives, and by his own family.”

Note: only Mary kept these things and pondered them in her heart
(Luke 2:19)

Jesus identifies Himself as a prophet...THE Prophet (Deut 18:15-19)
And declares that That Prophet will be despised by those to whom He was sent...
even by His own family (Mark 3:21)

v5 no mighty work...a few sick folk:

The people of Nazareth did not accept this man as the Jewish Messiah...

He was NOT a Favorite Son in Nazareth

Therefore, Jesus did not do any miracles in Nazareth...except to heal a few sick
folks

Why did He heal those few sick folks?

They had the faith to come to Him and ask Him to heal them

They heard the testimonies/fame, they heard His teachings...
with power and authority

They believed, they had faith

All others were stumbled by what they “knew” vs what the evidence said
He wanted to touch them but they did not want Him to touch them.

v6 he marveled:

It is an amazing thing to read that Jesus Christ the Son of God from everlasting to everlasting is marveled by anything...

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus also marveled...but at the faith of a Gentile!
(Luke 7:1-9)

Now He wondered at the unbelief in Him by His hometown folks

By their reasoning, He was not Who His words and deeds said He was
They refused to be confused by the overwhelming evidence contrary to their
“well-established” beliefs and reasoning

Jesus, this hometown boy, did not fit the image of the Messiah spoken of by their
teachers...a king with

- a crown
- a throne
- an army to defeat Rome
- national and international prestige and power

Instead, He was just a local boy from a humble, obscure family turned
itinerate preacher

They could not, did not deny His miracles
They did marvel at His teaching...with power and authority unlike the scribes and
Pharisees

But they did not believe the miracles or the teachings...
they did not believe Him or in Him

They could not see Him as the evidence revealed Him to be,
they could only see Him as they “knew” Him

They were sighted (physical)...yet blind (spiritual); opposite of the 2 blind men

So...Jesus leaves His hometown of Nazareth, never to return again
He does not stay where He is not welcome

To Capernaum with its

- great emotional excitement
- creeping blindness

Jesus says, “Good-bye”

To Nazareth with its

- doubt and stumbling offense in Him
- pervasive blindness

Jesus says, “Good-bye”

Jesus now begins His 3rd Teaching Tour of the Galilee

Application

1. Blindness

- physical:
 - involuntary
 - can be healed by a willing Messiah
 - temporary
- spiritual:
 - voluntary
 - the result of prejudice, pre-conceived ideas, and human reasoning...
a closed mind that refuses God's reasoning and evidence
 - eternal...unless it is healed

Things that blind us spiritually

- pride
- sin
- lust
- love of money
- ambition...love of power/influence over others
- false doctrine...because no "Acts 17:11" (Word is not Final Authority)
- peer pressure

Spiritual blindness is healed by

- brokenness
- humility
- repentance
- revelation

I once was blind but now I see

I had my own version of right and wrong

Sighted, I could not see truth until Jesus healed my blindness...

when I was broken and humbled, given revelation of Jesus Christ,

given the gift of repentance which I accepted by faith (agreement)

Now I see the truth...what God says is right and wrong

If you are not a born-again...no-longer-blind...person, you are blind to the truth

You cannot see the world as it really is, you cannot see yourself as God sees you

Ask for the gift of repentance, receive Jesus Christ by faith...and see!

There is none so blind as he that will not see...blind by their own choice

Acts 28:22-27

2. It is so hard to witness to family - they knew you BC

Your words are inconsistent with your “remembered” words.
Your actions are inconsistent with your “remembered” actions.

Family knew the way you were; you are “set” in their minds.
Family stumble on what you now say and do...and do not receive the “contradiction”

New words and new actions are used against us

New words and new actions, to replace the remembered ones, will take time to become
“the new normal” and acceptable to Family.
And that takes much time...and trials that test our faith.

Sometimes, you may have to say, “Good-bye”
Pray; the LORD may have to use another instrument to cut open their blind eyes.

Small group prayer:

If blind and want to see, come pray with me
Pray for blind loved ones

Closing song