

Sermon Park Road Baptist Church
1st November 2020
Luke 18 v 35-43
What do you want me to do for you?

There are two things to note about this man that Jesus encountered as he drew near to Jericho. First, he was blind. Luke doesn't not say how long he had been blind for. Perhaps he had been blind since birth, or perhaps he had become blind later in life. We don't know, however, he was blind and secondly, because of his blindness, he was reduced to sitting by the roadside begging, dependent on the mercy of others as they passed by.

One thing that the blind man had was 'belief and faith', but he did more than just believe, he acted upon that belief, by calling out to Jesus for mercy with boldness, he didn't call him Jesus of Nazareth as the crowd did, he called him Jesus, Son of David, The title "Son of David" was familiar to any Jew who knew the Old Testament. The Jews believed that God would send a Son of David to be the Saviour of his people. By calling Jesus the "Son of David," the blind man acknowledged him as the Saviour whom God had promised to send. Undoubtedly, the blind man had heard of Jesus' preaching about the kingdom of God, as well as all the miracles that Jesus had done, including the countless healing miracles. But, while many might have seen Jesus only as a preacher and miracle worker, the blind man saw Jesus as the Son of David, the Saviour of sinners. , he believed that Jesus was the Messiah. So he called out, Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me'

The blind man, was rebuked for daring to call out, but this made him call out even louder, Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me'

He knew that if Jesus would listen to him then he could be healed. And Jesus did hear him and had him brought to him, and here is where we really need to take notice of what Jesus asked him straight out. 'What do you want me to do for you? and the reply straight away was 'I want to see' no beating about the bush is there, just straight to the point. 'I want to see', I wonder how many of us could be this precise in what we ask for.

Sometimes I think we have to be specific in what we ask Jesus for, in our prayer times we often go to Jesus asking 'if it is your will' or 'Jesus if you could do this or that thing.' and whilst this is a polite way of asking for something, and the way we have been taught to ask for things, sometimes Jesus wants us to ask what is it we want him to do.

And when Jesus did heal him, did he just say thank you and walk away, no the blessing he received of his sight restored, this allowed him to follow Jesus, praising and thanking God for the recovery of his sight, and blessing others by witnessing that faith and belief in Jesus can change lives.

Jesus said to us, in Matthew 7 v7 'Ask and it shall be given to you' the question is do we ask with the right motives? Sometimes prayers can be asked with selfish ambition in mind, which is why James 4 says *'When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.'*

I know at the minute you are looking for a minister and are praying for one but are you praying with the right motives for one. Do you think that having a minister will be the answer to all that the church is going through? Who will solve all the problems and move the church forward? Is the whole church praying for a minister or just the leadership? Are you being specific in what you want a minister for?

We at Stanground needed a big shed, now I know this is slightly different from a minister but the principle is the same, we had a porta cabin that was falling to pieces and we needed to get rid of it for health and safety reasons, but we couldn't afford to replace it. We had been praying on and off for months for something to come along. Well to cut a long story short, my friend Angela and I had come back from New Wine where we had learned that we needed to be more specific in our prayers. We both immediately thought about the shed. When we got back to church we explained what had happened and encouraged the church to pray for a shed after every prayer that they prayed. All we asked them to add on was to say 'Lord, Shed, please, and I firmly believe that because of us being

specific and faithful in our prayers, 6-8 weeks later we had got a new shed at a price that we could afford.

I am not saying that this is what you should do for a minister but would it be such a bad thing to add on to each of your prayers? Every time you pray, what have you got to lose?

The blind man was healed because of his boldness, and his belief, which led to the blessing of not just him but others also.

Jesus is asking you and me some very pertinent questions this morning,

Are we blinded by things we think are impossible for Jesus? Or by our own understanding of what he can do?

Just plodding through our everyday lives?

Are we scared to exhibit some boldness, like the blind man and keep on asking him specifically for what we need?

Do we really believe that Jesus is listening to our prayers or has that belief grown dim over the years?

And are we living in the blessing that he so freely gives us when we call on him so that it blesses others?

Jesus said, 'what is it you want me to do for you?'

Amen.