

There's no doubt about it: In the Gospel of Luke, sometimes the 12 Disciples of Jesus, do come across as being a bit "daft". I mean, Jesus is revealing:

- all these truths about Himself; and
- Who He is; and
- His mission on Earth; and
- He talks about His death and resurrection,,,,

And the Disciples just don't seem to get it.

And it wasn't until all of these things happened, and Jesus was raised from the dead, that they finally remembered all off the stuff that Jesus had told them, and "Oh, that's what He meant." "Now I get it"....

But maybe it wasn't really their fault. Even as Jesus was saying this stuff, God kept it hidden from them.

And that's the way it continues today. When the message of Jesus, and the message of salvation in His Name is proclaimed, some people are blinded. The message of the cross, seems foolish. It makes no sense to them.

But then there's others, who will hear **exactly** the same message, but for them, it becomes their life-changing moment. What the other person rejects, these receive, as the words of life. They believe; and they repent of sin; and find forgiveness/life/hope/purpose in the Name of Jesus.

And so, in today's reading, we've got the Disciples. They have eyes to see with, but they cannot see,,,, And then we

have a blind man. He has no sight, but he recognises who Jesus is. And because of his faith, he actually regains his sight.

So,  
Jesus “took the twelve”. This is one of those times, of intimate sharing – one of those times where Jesus would take only His 12 closest followers, and share intimately and deeply with them...

And He told them:

- **we are going up to Jerusalem**
- **and everything that is written about the Son of Man** (that’s how Jesus used to refer to Himself) **by the prophets will be accomplished.**

And he began to share about what that would entail,, and the sufferings that He would have to face

- **he will be delivered over to the Gentiles**
- He will be mocked;
- Treated shamefully;
- He’ll be spat upon...

And we know, all those things happened to our Lord.

The Jewish religious leaders:- they could have punished Jesus themselves, but they didn’t have the authority to dish out the death penalty (and that’s what they wanted)... Only the Romans had that authority, and so they handed Jesus over to the Gentiles: For Him to be executed.

And you know, there's different types of suffering. We tend to think of the pain that Jesus suffered on the cross, and we generally don't think too much about the humiliation of it... The humanness of Jesus, suffered physical pain, but the Godness of Jesus, suffered in a different way...

The Lord Jesus Christ, is our Holy God... And our Holy God (The Son), was mocked... They made a great old joke of it.

- They blind-folded him and hit him. "Prophecy. Who hit you that time?"
- "Hail the King of the Jews"....

And they spat on him. They treated Him shamefully... They stripped Him naked... The Son of God, stripped naked, for people to point the finger, and make jokes, and laugh...

The utter humiliation of it... And how much more, is the humiliation for a holy God...

Now, we know, Jesus had the power, to stop it, at any moment. He could have called on His **Legions** of angels at any time, and they would come; And they would scorch the earth with those who dared to humiliate the Holy One of God...

But Jesus **didn't** call the troops in... Why? because this was His purpose. It was foretold by the prophets...

**33 And after flogging him, they will kill him,**

And Jesus said: **and on the third day he will rise."**

Alright, so here Jesus and His disciples are: They're on their way to Jerusalem,,, and all of that, is going to happen to Jesus, when they get there...

And the reason He is telling them this now, is because, although they cannot understand it now, they **will** understand it,, But not until He is raised from the dead.

And then they would understand that the suffering and death of The Son of God was not some kind of dreadful miscalculation (on the part of God). It had been God's plan, all the way along. "This is **everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets**. It will be accomplished when we get to Jerusalem", Jesus said...

But as I mentioned, the Disciples could not comprehend what Jesus was saying. 3 times, Luke repeats this:

- V<sup>34</sup> But they understood none of these things.
- This saying was hidden from them,
- and they did not grasp what was said.

3 times, Luke makes sure we know, the Disciples had no idea... How could they not know, when Jesus so plainly

explained it to them? Well, God supernaturally hid it from them.

So, even those who were closest to Jesus, were blinded to the purpose of Jesus.

And Luke goes straight into the next scene. They're approaching Jericho, which is on the way to Jerusalem, and there on the outskirts of Jericho, was a blind man. And Jesus has obviously got quite a following, because the Blind Man hears the commotion...

And so he asks, "What's going on?" And <sup>37</sup> They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

Now, the Blind Man: He had obviously heard about Jesus, and he'd obviously thought about the stories he'd heard of Jesus, because straight away, he called out, "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**"

I don't know if you realise it or not, but this is the **only time**, in the whole of the Gospel of Luke, that Jesus is referred to, as the **Son of David**.... And this is highly significant, (It may not be obvious to you and I), but to the Jews, this was significant, because "the Son of David", is "a messianic title" – The **Messiah** would be called "Son of David"... And here, the blind man, who cannot see, has recognised (before anyone else), that Jesus deserves the title, "Son of David"....

So, he calls out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And those in front of him (between him and Jesus) – they told him to shut up... But he didn't shut-up. He called out all the more: "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

It reminds me a bit of the parable Jesus told in this very same chapter, about the persistent widow... - that we ought always to pray, and not lose heart...

That poor old Blind Man – the people tried to shut him down. And at that point, he **could've** given up. And he could've sat down.... But how could he? His faith wouldn't let him. The Messiah was walking past. He had a prayer that needed answering, and the Son of David was there to answer it...  
"Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And I hope when you have a prayer for God, don't let anyone ever stop you from praying.

The Blind Man, is another example, of those who have come to an end of themselves, and know that they need a saviour... The Blind Man had nothing to offer Jesus...

And in his desperation, he recognised Jesus as the Messiah (the Son of David), and called out for mercy.

And that is how **we** come to Jesus. We have nothing that Jesus needs... And that's the only way to come to Him: Knowing that He is the Lord, and we desperately need His mercy.

And there's no surprises what happens next.

- Jesus calls the blind man to himself;
- “What do you want me to do for you?”
- “Lord, let me recover my sight.”
- And Jesus said: **“Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.”**

And instantly, he could see.

It was an act of faith, but what sort of faith did the Blind Man have? It was faith in who Jesus is – He's the Son of David. **“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”** ... There's the faith, right there...

It wasn't faith in the healing itself – it was faith in the person of Jesus.

There's a bit of a trend in Christian circles at the moment, to say, “I'm believing for a healing/miracle/this/that”... Faith isn't believing “for”. Faith is believing “in”. We believe **in** the Lord Jesus Christ.

And that's the sort of faith that **we** are called to today – To a saving faith. To faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Son of God.

Yes:

- He has the power to Save.
- He has the power to heal.
- He has the power to raise the dead...
  
- He has the power to do anything that He decides to do.

But in all of these things, our faith is in **Him**...

Anyway, immediately the Blind Man recovered his sight, and he followed Jesus, glorifying God.

And when all the people saw what happened, they praised God too...

Were they praising God for the miracle? Probably... But more importantly, they were praising God, for the work of Jesus. Maybe they were even praising God, because Jesus was proclaimed as the Son of David, because in the very next chapter, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt (the image of King David)... And the crowds cheered Him on, and welcomed Him as their long awaited king.

So:

Who is Jesus to you?

Have your eyes been opened, to who Jesus really is?

To you, is Jesus just:

- A nice bloke?

- A good teacher of morals?
- God's substitute for a doctor?
- A healer?
- A teacher?
- A counsellor – someone to fix up your family problems?
- An entertainer – someone who does miracles for us to marvel at?

Who is Jesus to you?

And, have your eyes been truly opened, to who Jesus is?

- He is Messiah.
  - He is God's chosen one.
  - The One, anointed by God;
  - The Son of David...
- 
- He is Lord;
  - He is King.

Over the last few weeks, the message has been that Jesus is the one, we are to leave everything to follow. Last week, the rich ruler didn't do that. And Jesus said, "Oh, how hard it is, for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God..."

And now, immediately, we meet a Blind Man (almost certainly a beggar), who's just received the most precious gift he's ever received (his sight). And he ups and follows Jesus...

Let us be mindful of who we follow: Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God...

And let us be mindful also, of the cost of salvation... The suffering; The ridicule; The humiliation... ; The death...

And so let us be like the Blind Man, who can now see... Let's see the things of God. And leave everything, to follow Him.

Let's pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Open our eyes, to see You,  
for Who You truly are.

You are the Lord God Almighty,  
but You are also the Suffering Servant.

Jesus, it breaks our heart,  
as we think upon the ridicule;  
the pain;  
the suffering, that You went through.

But joy overcomes our sadness,  
when we recall the resurrection.  
Glory to God in the Highest,  
that Messiah is raised from the dead.

We thank You, Jesus.  
We thank You for what You did on the cross.  
And we thank You,

that You call us, to follow You.

Lord, give us Faith/Resolve;  
to forsake all else, to follow You.

For Your glory,  
Amen.