

“Seeing Past Your Past”

Part 4 of ‘Real Christianity’

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, February 10, 2019

The way you see yourself will have a great influence on the way you believe, the way you approach God in prayer, and how you will stand and believe after you have prayed.

With all the promises that we have in God’s Word, why do so few people pray? Or, when we pray, why do we pray with very little confidence? We have knowledge, but do we have trust in God?

Proverbs 3:5-6 Amplified Bible:

⁵ Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart
And do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

⁶ In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].

Why is it that we can pray for someone else with great passion and authority, but when we pray for ourselves we pray with these little doubts dancing around in our minds of whether or not God is going to do for me what He has done for so many others. It’s because of the way we view ourselves and the way we think that God views us.

Luke 18:35-43 (NKJV Strong's): ³⁵ Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. ³⁶ And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. ³⁷ So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

³⁹ Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, ⁴¹ saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”

⁴² Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” ⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise to God.

Here we find a story of a man that had to get past his history and his present issues, so he could receive the desire of his heart.

1. He was labeled by society as a beggar; a blind beggar. They were assigned a place to beg at the edge of the city. They had to wear a “beggar’s cloak;” it was their identity. They were considered useless and worthless failures in life who would never amount to any good, never really be able to accomplish or achieve anything worthwhile. Many people saw them as cursed by God. Probably his parents sinned, or he was a big sinner, therefore he had lost his sight and vision.

Regardless of the cause of his condition, he was full of shame. People would look down on him because of his position in life. People would have some pity because he was just so pitiful. He was a VICTIM to something that happened to him in life that he had no control over.

Have you ever felt like or see yourself as a victim in life because of what happened to you in the past, or the family you came from, or the color of your skin, or the geographical location of where you were born, or maybe your present condition or circumstances in life?

2. He heard the news, the word spoken about Jesus. Jericho was a city loaded with priests, where they heard story after story about this Jesus. Jesus was different from the religious leaders of condemnation and reproach. Jesus spoke of love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, restoration, and healing, which equated to Him being the Messiah!! Jesus is fulfilling and administering God’s Covenant!!

But, wait a minute, blind man! You think that Jesus will do something for you??? You’re insignificant and worthless!!! You can’t expect that Jesus will do something for you, change your position in life and/or your pitiful situation!!

3. Because of what he heard about Jesus, there was a hope, an expectation that was arising like a fire burning within. It was faith that was taking ascendancy over his present view of his hopeless circumstances. He was beginning to see himself in a whole different light, going from a victim to a victor, from fear to faith, from being conquered to becoming a conqueror!!!

He could not see in the natural, but he was seeing with the eyes of faith. He was seeing in his heart by faith that he would be able to see. In his heart, he was seeing himself and his situation changed by the power of God through Jesus. Moving from “impossible” to “all things are possible with God”!!!

Hebrews 11:1 Amplified Bible: Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

Joshua 6:1-2 Amplified Bible: Now Jericho [a fortified city with high walls] was tightly closed because [of the people’s fear] of the sons of Israel; no one went out or came in.
² The LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the mighty warriors.

4. *The mercy of God!!*

Luke 1:69-72 Amplified Bible:

⁶⁹ And He has raised up a horn of salvation [a mighty and valiant Savior] for us In the house of David His servant—

⁷⁰ Just as He promised by the mouth of His holy prophets from the most ancient times—

⁷¹ Salvation from our enemies, And from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷² To show mercy [as He promised] to our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant [the promised blessing],

Romans 9:15-16 Amplified Bible: ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, “I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOMEVER I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I HAVE COMPASSION.”

¹⁶ So then God’s choice is not dependent on human will, nor on human effort [the totality of human striving], but on God who shows mercy [to whomever He chooses—it is His sovereign gift].

Romans 4:16 Amplified Bible: Therefore, do not let what is a good thing for you [because of your freedom to choose] be spoken of as evil [by someone else];

5. What do you want?

Luke 18:41-43 Amplified Bible: ⁴¹ “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me regain my sight!” ⁴² Jesus said to him, “Regain your sight; your [personal trust and confident] faith [in Me] has made you well.” ⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Jesus, glorifying *and* praising *and* honoring God. And all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Amplified Bible: ¹⁴ Inasmuch then as we [believers] have a great High Priest who has [already ascended and] passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith and cling tenaciously to our absolute trust in Him as Savior]. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize *and* understand our weaknesses *and* temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as *we are*, yet without [committing any] sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God’s gracious favor] with confidence *and* without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].

What do you want today? What do you want God to do?