Christ Church

The Blind Beggar & The Rich Tax Collector

08.04.2024 | Luke 18:35-19:10 | Pastor Chad Graham

MESSIAH

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

SET THE SCENE

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Two incidents at Jericho demonstrate Jesus's mission to save the lost, whatever their place in society, whether oppressed or oppressor.

Blind Beggar

LUKE 18:35-43

Chief Tax Collector

LUKE 19:1-10

STUDY THE TEXT

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Textual Commentary:

1. A blind person had very little alternative for a living. Jews would know that they have a duty to care for such persons.
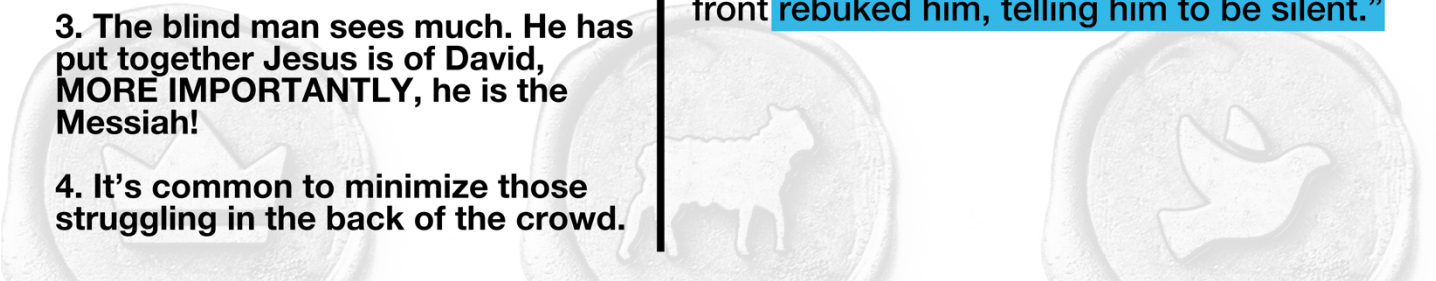
2. Jesus "of Nazareth" is now a household name. Jesus's fame is spreading.

3. The blind man sees much. He has put together Jesus is of David, MORE IMPORTANTLY, he is the Messiah!

4. It's common to minimize those struggling in the back of the crowd.

Luke 18:35-43

"As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36 And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." 38 And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent.""

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Textual Commentary:

5. The blind man is unthwarted by the sneering crowd. He is near the Messiah and he won't miss his chance.

6. Notice the priorties of Jesus. He is working to help the crowd understand what the blind man already believes, in faith.

7. Jesus aims to bring God glory in each miracle. This is his way of helping "unbelief" present within the crowds.

Luke 18:35-43

"But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." 42 And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." 43 And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Textual Commentary:

8. Chief tax collector meant enemy of the Jews; it meant a very unpopular person; it meant an ally to the enemies against Jesus.

9. Can you imagine the mayor climbing a tree to see an important figure who came to town? There is desperation in this action.

10. The Jesus PR Team is not going to like this. "Lord, why HIM?" "Lord, we have big donors in the city who want to see you!" "Lord, he is short!"

Luke 19:1-10

"He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."

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TEXTUAL COMMENTARY:

11. Zacchaeus's heart was already moved toward Jesus!

12. SIDE NOTE: You don't want to be a grumbler.

13. Mature disciples will turn thier attention to the needs of sinners.

14. BEHOLD - He is inviting Jesus to examine him.

15. What happens if a tender heart meets gospel truth and attention????????????????????

Luke 19:1-10

"6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.""

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LIVE THE TEXT

1. The gospel is for the poor and the rich. This MUST inform our evangelism. We MUST share the gospel with all demographics.

2. Kill all grumbling in your life. When you hear grumbling come out of your mouth ask yourself, "How are you working in my life, Lord?"

3. If you are on the VERGE of committing to Christ—WAIT NO MORE. Today is the day to let Christ examine your heart and find faith!

LIVE THE TEXT