

“The Disabled and the Son of Man” Luke 18:35 – 19:10

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Luke 18:35-43

We left off last time with the Rich Young Ruler and his inability to let go of that which he worshiped to follow Jesus. When the disciples heard it, they said...

Luke 18:26-27

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

As we are coming to the very end of the Travel Discourses in Luke, the Holy Spirit directed Luke to place these two stories here to show us that God is the God of the Impossible.

Remember this is all in contrast to all the interaction with the Pharisees who said the rich were blessed and have favor from God but the disabled and sinners could never be saved because they are cursed by God. This false teaching needed to be purged out of these that would take the gospel to the whole world after His Death and Resurrection that he predicted last time. These teachings are proof that God can save anyone at any time in any condition. As we dig into this study today the question that you will need to answer for yourself is “What is

keeping you?”. This question is to both the unbeliever and the believer alike. What is your disability that is keeping you from doing that which God is calling you? Are you willing today to let God do the impossible in your life so as to glorify Him? With that thought let us look again at what we just read and apply it to these questions.

Blind Bartimaeus

Luke 18:35-43

How do we know his name is Bartimaeus? From Mark's account...

Mark 10:46

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

What a minute! Is he coming out of Jericho or going in? Do the critics of the Bible have their “Ah Ha!” moment? No not at all. There were two Jericho's at that time. One from the Old Testament and a New Testament one built by Herod the Great, where he died. * See this map shows you.

So, again, the critics are put to shame. The Bible does not need approval. It is the same with the criticism about Matthew mentioning two blind men. That actually confirms the validity of the witness as Matthew is more complete and Mark and Luke only focus on the one. Now we know that Mark got his information directly from Peter who would have known this man by his name after he became one of those that joined them. But we see this man sitting outside of the city gate begging for money and he hears all the commotion and asked what it was all about. When he heard it, he starts yelling out at the top of his lungs “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Of course, the crowds start telling him to be quiet. Most likely instigated by the religious leaders. All three gospels say it was the multitude or the many, meaning not the disciples. But Bartimaeus keeps yelling paying no attention to them. But what’s interesting is what he is saying and would naturally get the criticism from some. The title “Son of David” was a Messianic one.

1 Chronicles 17:11

And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your **seed** after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

So, Bartimaeus is calling on the messiah to have mercy on him. He would not stop until he had an answer. Something interesting that he did when Jesus asked him to come to him...

Mark 10:49-50

Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.” And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

This was an act of faith as he knew that he would have his sight to be able to see where he left them. It could also be his beggar clothes that he is leaving behind as he knows he will never need them again! The point of it all is that he believed. He knew his disability could not keep him from that which Christ offers. His was a step of faith and that was all that it took.

Luke 18:42-43

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.

Do you believe that Jesus can do something like this in your life? We know that the physical miracles are not as prevalent today but what about the spiritual ones? What impossible feat keeps you from experiencing His grace? Drug Addiction? Sexual Perversions? Anger? What about Anxiety, Worry and Fear? (Tell the story about your fear of public speaking and how it related to my old life) Remember...

Luke 18:26-27

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

But what about our next story that is unique only to Luke’s gospel. Here is a guy that has two problems. Let’s look at them...

Zacchaeus and his two problems

Luke 19:1-10

It says that Zacchaeus was a “Chief” tax collector. This means he was a leader of a group of tax collectors and would have

been double dipping into what was being collected. If there was ever a person more hated by the people, it would be this one. Just the idea from common people and the leaders that this person could be saved would cause them to cringe and say, “No Way!” He was the epidemic of the despised in that culture. He is the perfect person to describe what impossible looks like. Did you know that the last person on your mind to think will be saved is the one that will be? (Tell the story of Adam). Now on top of all this he was too short to see over the crowds and not strong enough to get through them to get to Jesus. So, what does he do? He steps out in faith and runs ahead and climbs a tree! We know that this was his act of faith by the fact that Jesus acknowledged it. Zacchaeus knew his condition. He was quite aware of his sinful state. He knew he was despised by the people. But what happened? He heard about the grace of Jesus. Maybe someone told him about Matthew, and he thought if Matthew could have a life change so could he. He had already had a heart change because he knew he needed Jesus. But his problem wasn't his status but his stature. So, he climbs the tree and Jesus recognizes him and calls him by name. Did you know that Jesus calls you by name?

John 10:27-30

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.”

Zacchaeus’s faith was exercised when he came to Jesus and Jesus knew him. You need to see that to understand what Zacchaeus does after that. He makes restitution to all those he harmed and gave half of his wealth to the poor. This is a result of his salvation not what caused it.

James 2:18

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

True saving faith will always produce some sort of works.

Zacchaeus may have continued to be a short guy, but he was no longer a hated tax collector. There is nothing in your life that is too impossible for Jesus to change.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor

idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

The good news of the gospel is that God will do the impossible for you! He will not keep you way that you were!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This is why Jesus says this about Zacchaeus...

Luke 19:9-10

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Blind people and tax collectors were thought to be the last people on earth that could be saved. That is the power of Jesus. He can save anyone and everyone! And not only that but he can do the impossible in your life today. Are you still thinking

that your past is keeping you from what God has called you? I hope today is the day that you can see past that.

Luke 18:27

But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

Close with the story of Peter walking on water...

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.