

HOW THE BLIND SEE

LUKE 18:31-43

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

What could make it difficult for someone to believe that Jesus' suffering and death actually accomplished the promises God made in the Old Testament?

What do Theophilus and the rich ruler have in common? How might seeing a connection impact the way we read the story in Luke 18?

What does it mean to be certain about Jesus? Why would certainty about that important? Are you certain? What does Luke teach us about where that kind of certainty comes from?

How does the statement in Luke 18:31-34 and story in 35-42 connect? Why does Luke include them back to back? What do you think the next story about Zaccheus is doing?

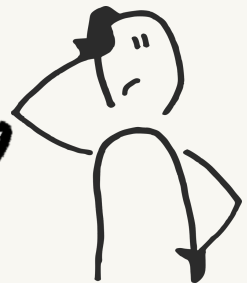
Sometimes we focus first on God enabling the blind man to see physically and miss the fact he already did see something others didn't. How might recognizing that impact the way we read this story?

WHY WOULD ANYONE WITH SOMETHING TO LOSE FOLLOW JESUS?

Remember: Luke is writing "...that you may have **certainty** concerning the things you had been taught." (Luke 1:1-4)



BUT HOW CAN I BE SURE JESUS IS FULFILLING GOD'S PROMISES WHEN THINGS LOOK THE WAY THEY DO?



FOR US TO BE CERTAIN WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SEE SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH JESUS

THE KIND OF SEEING WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HOWEVER IS MORE THAN JUST PHYSICAL SIGHT.



① What the Apostles Can't See

Jesus took the twelve aside and explained the plan clearly: they were going to Jerusalem, and "everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished," including being delivered over to the Gentiles, mocked, shamed, flogged, killed, and rising on the third day .

Despite Jesus clearly stating the plan and its fulfillment of Old Testament promises, the disciples "understood none of these things" . The saying "was hidden from them", and they "did not grasp what was said" . Although they could see who Jesus was (a truth God had previously revealed), they did not see or grasp the plan—how His humiliation and death connected to and fulfilled the Old Testament promises of the eternal kingdom.

That kind of seeing took a miracle Jesus would perform in Luke 24.

② What the Blind Man Can See

In spite of the fact this beggar was physically blind and an insignificant no one he was the only one in the crowd who truly sees Jesus. He confessed Jesus by crying out the specific Messianic title, "Son of David" , thereby proclaiming that Jesus was the promised King who was fulfilling God's plan to establish the kingdom.

The crowd rebuked him and told him to be silent, but he cried out "all the more" . This relentless, humble persistence models the

behavior of the persistent widow mentioned earlier in Luke (18:1-8) and what is required to "not lose heart" .

Jesus stopped for this insignificant person and commended his faith, stating, "Recover your sight, your faith has made you well" (saved) . The blind man, who immediately recovered his sight, became a model for us, showing that those who will enjoy the blessings of the kingdom are those who God has enabled to see Jesus for who the Scripture says He is and who put all their hope in Him despite opposition .

CONCLUSION:

The gospel makes a very big claim about Jesus. He is winning by doing something that looks like a whole lot like losing. It also makes a big demand on his disciples. Come and follow Him!

To do that obviously requires certainty, but where does that kind of certainty come from? The apostles show us something more than physical sight is needed. It takes Jesus opening your mind. The blind beggar shows us what happens when He has. He sees what no one else does and experiences a taste of the future kingdom Jesus is going to establish as a result. He's a model for us. While we can't see what we want to see right now, keep crying out to Jesus, trusting in spite of opposition, and we can be sure God will keep His promise, and use a group of no name nobodies with nothing to offer TO GIVE THIS WORLD A GLIMPSE of the future kingdom He's going to establish through Jesus when He returns.