

Luke 18:35-43

³⁵As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road, begging. ³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

³⁷"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him.

³⁸So he called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

³⁹Those who led the way admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had been brought near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want Me to do for you?"

"Lord," he said, "let me see again."

⁴²"Receive your sight!" Jesus replied. "Your faith has healed you." ⁴³Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people who saw this gave praise to God.

Berean Study Bible

1

Making close connections. Luke 18:35-43

Connecting from a distance. 18:35-39

Know who Jesus is. 38-39 "Son of David"

Know what Jesus gives. 38-39 "Have mercy on me"

Connecting up close. 18:40-41

Question by Jesus. 41 "What do you want Me to do"

Answer to Jesus. 41 "let me see again"

Connecting more widely. 18:42-43

Gift from Jesus. 42 "Receive your sight"

Praise for Jesus. 43 "glorifying God"

2

When your faith is expressed. Luke 18:35-43

Faith expressed publicly. 18:35-39

Express your faith verbally. 38 "he called out"

Express your faith confidently. 39 "cried out all the louder"

Faith expressed personally. 18:40-41

Have a ready answer. 41 "What do you want"

Have a humble answer. 41 "Lord"

Faith expressed permanently. 18:42-43

Have clear actions. 43 "followed Jesus"

Have clear words. 43 "glorifying God"

3

The one and only. Luke 18:35-43

One opportunity. 18:35-37

Name the problem. 35 "blind... begging"

Name the solution. 37 "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by"

One attitude. 18:38-39

Have hope. 38 "called out"

Have confidence. 39 "cried out all the louder"

One request. 18:40-41

Know your question. 41 "What do you want"

Expect an answer. 41 "let me see again"

One response. 18:42-43

Use your time. 43 "Immediately"

Use your energy. 43 "followed Jesus, glorifying God"

4

When will my faith heal me? Luke 18:35-43

I already have faith. 18:35-39

I have faith in the midst of my problems. 35 "blind... begging"

I have faith that Jesus can heal me. 38-39 "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

My faith asks for healing. 18:40-41

I know what I want. 41 "What do you want Me to do"

I ask for what I want. 41 "let me see again"

How did my faith heal me? 18:42-43

I was healed when Jesus said so. 42 "Receive your sight"

I was healed and faith continues. 43 "followed Jesus, glorifying God"

What the blind man saw. Luke 18:35-43

The blind man saw himself clearly. 18:35-37

I am limited. 35 "blind... sitting beside"

I am dependent. 35-36 "begging... asked"

The blind man saw Jesus clearly. 18:38-39

See Jesus in His humanity. 38 "Jesus"

See Jesus in His Divinity. 38-39 "Son of David"

The blind man saw prayer clearly. 18:40-41

Prayer is to be humble. 41 "Lord"

Prayer is to be specific. 41 "let me see again"

The blind man saw the world clearly. 18:42-43

Clarity is achieved through faith. 42 "Your faith has healed you"

Clarity is achieved through praise. 43 "followed Jesus, glorifying God"

How your faith will heal you. Luke 18:35-43

I need to know my problem. 18:35-36

I am part of the problem. 35 "blind"

I have no solution. 35 "begging"

I need to practice persistence. 18:37-39

I need to speak boldly. 38-39 "called out... cried out"

I need to speak loudly. 39 "admonished... but he cried out all the louder"

I need to request precisely. 18:40-41

I need to get close to Jesus. 40 "brought near"

I need to answer clearly. 41 "What do you want"

I need to respond with praise. 18:42-43

I gain a new direction. 43 "followed Jesus"

I gain a new voice. 43 "glorifying God"

What you can 'B'. Luke 18:35-43

Be blind. 18:35

Sin and Satan blinds us. 35, 2 Corinthians 4:4 “blinded the minds”

Become blind to the lures of the world.

Be believing. 18:38-39

Faith connects us to God. 38, Ephesians 2:8 “saved by grace through faith”

Faith motivates our life. 39, 2 Corinthians 5:7 “walk by faith, not by sight”

Be bold. 18:39-41

Bold before people. 39, 2 Corinthians 3:12 “we have hope so we are bold”

Bold before God. 41, Hebrews 4:16 “boldly to the throne of grace”

Be blessed. 18:42-43

Faith is rewarded. 42

Blessed to be a blessing. 43

Other possible titles

A blind man's vision

Blind faith

Blind spots

Believing but blind

Beggars can be choosers

I will never pass this way again

When hearing is your only option

Shout it out!

Jesus asks 'silly' questions

Have your answer ready

Face-to-face with Jesus

Can your faith heal you?

Why doesn't your faith heal you?

The power of faith

Partnership with God

Can you see Jesus?

What can you see?

Don't give up

Quotes and illustrations

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory

of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:3-5

Mini biography of Fanny J Crosby, blind hymn-writer

Among the dreaded 'Dad jokes' is this line. "I see," said the blind man, as he picked up his hammer and saw.

Commentary

"Jesus of Nazareth" Luke 18:37

This term was used by demons, Mark 1:24, Luke 4:34

This term was used by ordinary people, Mark 10:47, Luke 18:37

This term was used by those who were positive towards Him, Luke 24:19, John 1:45

This term was used by His enemies, Acts 6:14

This term was used by those who arrested Him, Matthew 26:71, John 18:5, John 18:7

This term was used by Pilate on the sign on the cross, John 19:19

This term was used by believers, speaking to unbelievers, Acts 2:22, Acts 10:38, Acts 26:9

This term was used by Jesus, speaking to an unbeliever, Acts 22:8

This term was never used by believers to fellow-believers.

"Your faith has healed you." Luke 18:42b

Why does Jesus emphasize the recipient's faith time after time? Notice that Jesus doesn't emphasize or point to his own power, as some modern-day healers seem to. He gives glory to God and often points to the faith of the person who is healed. This is to encourage their faith even more. He's saying, "See what your faith in God is able to do?" The next time they come to a seemingly impossible experience, they are more likely to pray with faith themselves, rather than call in the resident healer.

Jesus is a bridge to the Father, always pointing people to a relationship with the Father. Jesus is not trying to make people dependent upon him. But he is teaching them to trust God on their own. Many can see Jesus only, but Jesus keeps encouraging their faith and pointing them to the invisible Father (see John 16:23-28). We disciples also can serve as bridges for people. At first, they are often very dependent upon us. We shouldn't be afraid of that, but not seek it. Rather we see it as a stage of faith. Our goal is to help transfer their faith in us to faith in their Heavenly Father. Only when we have achieved this have we succeeded, only then have we become like Jesus. Ralph Wilson

Parallel texts

Matthew 20:29-34	Mark 10:46-52	Luke 18:35-43
Two blind men	Bartimaeus, a blind man	A blind man
²⁹As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. ³⁰And there were two blind men sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" ³¹The crowd admonished them to be silent, but they cried out all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" ³²Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want Me to do for you?" He asked. ³³"Lord," they answered, "let our eyes be opened."	⁴⁶Next, they came to Jericho. And as Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho with a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many people admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man. "Take courage!" they said. "Get up! He is calling for you." ⁵⁰Throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus jumped up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "Rabboni," said the blind man, "let me see again."	³⁵As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road, begging. ³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him. ³⁸So he called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹Those who led the way admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had been brought near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "let me see again."

³⁴ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and at once they received their sight and followed Him.	⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.	⁴² "Receive your sight!" Jesus replied. "Your faith has healed you." ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people who saw this gave praise to God.
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Ministry approaching Jericho

Matthew, Mark, and Luke, record the healing of the blind man, on the outskirts of Jericho. But each of these writers record different aspects of this miraculous healing.

- Matthew notes there were two blind men (Matthew 20:30).
- Mark only mentions one blind man and notes his name was Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46).
- Luke provides less information, recording a blind man but not naming him (Luke 18:35).
- John does not record this incident at all.

There is no contradiction here. There was a blind man (Luke 18:35). His name was Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46). And he was not alone for there was another blind man with him (Matthew 20:30). Each Gospel writer recorded slightly different aspects of the incident, but they are logically consistent, as Scripture always is.

There is one other potential problem that is also easily resolved, and that is the exact time and location of this healing. Some English translations of Matthew state this incident occurred as Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho (Matthew 20:29). Mark says it was near Jericho (Mark 10:46). And Luke says it happen when Jesus was entering Jericho (Luke 19:1). The answer is easily appreciated when we enter into their world, which centred on Jerusalem. No matter what the elevation of their starting point, the people always went "up" to Jerusalem, and "down" from Jerusalem. In a similar way, the Jerusalem-centric way of describing other towns was: the town gate on the side of the town that was nearest to Jerusalem was the gate by which one entered the town; and as one continued further away from Jerusalem, the town gate furthest from the capital was how one left the town. It did not matter whether one was entering or leaving the town, the gate nearest the capital was the entrance, and the gate furthest from Jerusalem was the exit.

So, when Jesus approached Jericho from the east; the gate furthest from Jerusalem, he was entering through the gate known as the leaving gate. That is why Matthew, a Jew, in typical Jewish fashion describe approach towards Jericho as "leaving Jericho" (Matthew 20:29). But Luke, a gentile, in typical gentile fashion, describes the same place as "entering Jericho" (Luke 19:1). Mark takes the middle ground simply saying "near Jericho" (Mark 10:46). There is no contradiction, but this is an interesting sidelight on local customs.

The date in the Ancient Hebrew calendar, as used by Jesus in the First Century, was the seventh day of Nisan, which was the first month of the year 4178 After Creation. The date in our modern Gregorian calendar was the morning of Thursday, 28 February, 30 AD.

This information was taken directly from the free e-book available at this same website, www.sermoninspiration.net The book is *Timeline*, a study of the chronology of the Bible.

Meta-narrative

In Luke's Gospel narrative, he juxtaposes two events. First, the disciples who could not see (Luke 18:31-34), and this is immediately contrasted to the blind beggar could see what the disciples could not (Luke 18:35-43).

Biblical theology

Healed by faith

This is now the fourth time Jesus has affirmed, "Your faith has healed / cured / saved you". In each case the same word, σῶζω [Strong's 4982] is used.

- To the sinful woman who anointed His feet with perfume, "Jesus told the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'" (Luke 7:50)
- To the woman with the issue of blood, "Daughter," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace." (Matthew 9:22, Mark 5:34, Luke 8:48)
- To the ten lepers between Samaria and Galilee, one of whom returned, Jesus said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well!" (Luke 17:19)
- To this blind man at Jericho who asked to receive his sight, Jesus replied. "Your faith has healed you." (Mark 10:52, Luke 18:42)

How interesting that such an expressive language as koine Greek should use only one word for both healing and salvation.

There are other examples of faith connected with healing, but the form of words, "Your faith has healed you" is not used. For example, the centurion at Capernaum whose servant was ill, to whom Jesus said, "Go! As you have believed, so will it be done for you." And his servant was healed at that very hour. (Matthew 8:13) Also, there are examples where faith is not explicitly stated, "they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged Him just to let them touch the fringe of His cloak. And all who touched Him were healed." (Mark 6:56b)

By contrast, the lack of faith results in stifling the miraculous. For example, when Jesus came to Nazareth, His home town, "He did not do many miracles there, because of their unbelief / lack of faith." (Matthew 13:58)

It must also be made plain that faith does not necessarily produce healing. As the Gospels transition into the book of the Acts of the Apostles, we find the apostles were performing miracles. Peter and John were instrumental in healing a paraplegic man (Acts 3:1-10). This

was a man, past whom Jesus had walked, perhaps a hundred times, but had not healed him. But as the apostolic period progresses, miraculous healing begins to fade. Perhaps most famously, Paul records, "I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

In his final letter, the apostle is devoid of healing power. He writes of his fellow-missionary and faithful companion, "I left Trophimus sick in Miletus." (2 Timothy 4:20)

Ecclesiastical theology

All Christian denominations accept that Jesus came from Heaven, and by word and deed, He modelled the life of Heaven. So, how do we apply this principle, today?

- The pseudo-Christian cult, usually called Christian Science, asserts that sin and sickness is only an illusion, and can be overcome through prayer.
- Pentecostalism asserts that Heaven's blessing are ours to experience, today. This includes freedom from all disease. Those who have sufficient faith are cured. However, those who do not have faith for a simple earthly healing, may not be able to generate sufficient faith for such a significant event as eternal salvation.
- Premillennialism asserts that Jesus will return to live in Jerusalem for 1,000 years, during which time healing will be normal. Until then, sickness is normal in a fallen and sinful world.
- Postmillennialism asserts that the Gospel is making the world a better place including advancing medical practices that promote health and healing.
- Amillennialism asserts we live in 'the overlap of the Ages'. Jesus demonstrated that Heaven will be free from disease and death. God may, or may not, grant physical healing in this Age.

Music and songs

Fanny J Crosby, blind hymn-writer

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord... where rivers of pleasure I **see**, H 625

All the way my Saviour leads me... Lo, a spring of joy I **see**, H 626

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine... Visions of rapture now burst on my **sight**, H 687

Some day the silver cord will break... And I shall **see** Him face to face, H 689

Tell me the story of Jesus... Clearer than ever I **see**, H 692

Songs based on this text, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," Luke 18:37

Pass me not o gentle Saviour, Hear my humble cry, H 682 (also by Fanny J Crosby)
Something good is going to happen to you, CWH 7

Songs about blindness / recovery of sight

Amazing grace... I once was blind but now I see
I wandered so aimless life filled with sin... I saw the Light (Hank Williams)
Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind... O Lamb of God, I come, H 392

Songs about faith

By faith we see the hand of God (Getty)
Could that faith you've been holding... There's gonna be a better day
God is good all the time... And through the eyes of faith (Don Moen)
Humble yourself... By putting your faith and trust in the Lord
I walk by faith, Ot 32
Looking for the city... But with my new eyes of faith (Tunney)
My faith has found a resting place, H 669
Oh Lord you lead me... Have faith in God (Bullock)
Passin' the faith along to my brother
Therefore, being justified by faith, SiS 29
There's an ember, deep within me... Set my faith on fire
We who shunned the hand that fed us... Now by faith

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Why do we say "I see" when we mean "I understand"?
 2. What do you think enabled the blind man to see Jesus as more than the man from Nazareth?
 3. Fanny J Crosby looked back over life and said, "If perfect earthly sight were offered to me tomorrow, I would not accept it." Why do you think she could accept her limitations?
 4. If your prayers are not answered in the way you would like, what steps can you take to accept God's answer?
 5. Jesus took no credit for healing the blind man. Jesus told him, "Your faith has healed you". Suggest some benefits of locating the source of wellbeing from an outside source, to inside the man.
 6. What limits us from praying bigger, bolder, prayers?
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Memory verse

Jesus asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want Me to do for you?” Luke 18:41

³⁵As Jesus drew near to **Jericho**, a **blind** man was sitting beside the road, **begging**. ³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

³⁷“**Jesus of Nazareth** is **passing** by,” they told him.

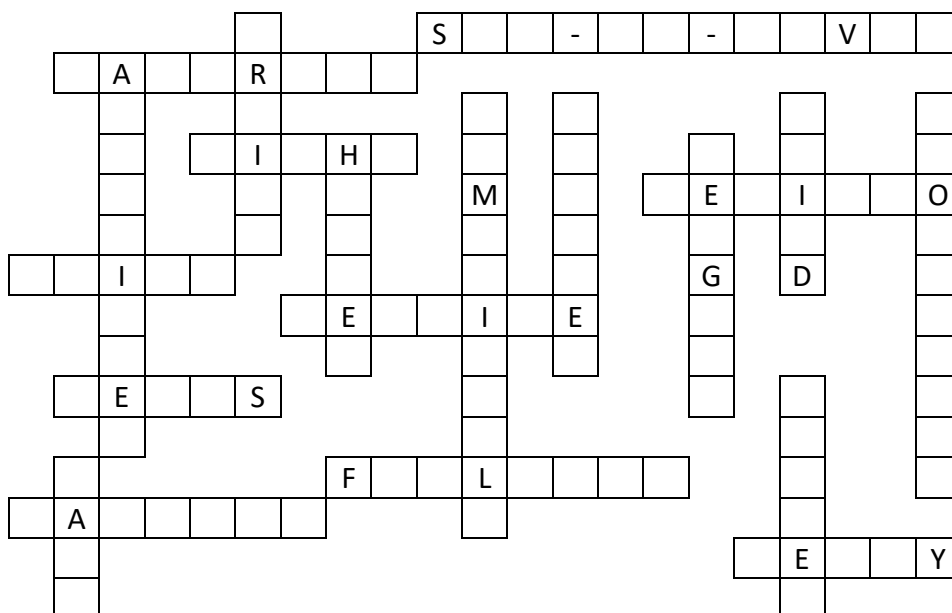
³⁸So he called out, “Jesus, **Son of David**, have **mercy** on me!”

³⁹Those who led the way **admonished** him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰Jesus **stopped** and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had been brought near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹“What do you **want** Me to do for you?”

“Lord,” he said, “let me see again.”

⁴²“**Receive** your **sight**!” Jesus replied. “Your faith has **healed** you.” ⁴³**Immediately** he received his sight and **followed** Jesus, **glorifying** God. And all the people who saw this gave **praise** to God.



What are three things Jesus would like to do for you?

1

2

3

