

GIVING SIGHT TO THE BLIND Text: Matthew 9:27-31

The Test and Reward of True Faith

1. How Often Do I Ask Someone to Tell Me My Blind Spots?

NEVER! — Because My Wife Already Does That! (*“My preacher says we shouldn’t do that”*)

2. But Seriously, How Often do you ask anyone to tell you your blind spots?

- a. Usually We Don’t Want People to Tell Us Our Blind Spots...
- b. So It’s Usually the Hard Knocks of Life that show us our blind spots
- c. If We’re Even Paying Attention and even then we may not believe it...

3. Two Blind men want Jesus to open their eyes

- a. But Jesus Knows that PHYSICAL eyesight is NOT their greatest need...
- b. Their Greatest Need is SPIRITUAL Eyesight...
- c. To Be Able to See with the Eyes of FAITH!

1. THE NECESSITY OF PERSISTENT FAITH (v.27)

A. TWO BLIND MEN FOLLOWED HIM...

1. People are Seeking Christ and Asking for Help...

- a) Jesus Had Just Healed a Woman who had an issue of Blood for 12 yrs
- b) Then Jesus Raised Jarius’ Daughter back to Life
- c) And When He Departed from there—two blind men followed Him...

2. They Call Out To Jesus—but Jesus keeps walking...

- a) They Are Following Him and Crying Out “Son of David Have Mercy on us!”
- b) But Jesus Doesn’t Stop Immediately but Keeps walking and enters a House!
- c) So These Two Blind Men Follow Jesus Into Someone’s House

3. They Could’ve just given up trying—but they didn’t!

B. GOD WANTS US TO HAVE A PERSISTENT FAITH

1. There’s a point where a person can get so comfortable in life... that they no longer seek the Lord...

- a) They Just Stop Trying to Follow the Lord and Give Up
- b) These two Blind Men Could’ve Decided it was too much trouble to seek Jesus
- c) Especially since they were blind!

2. Yes, I Might be Blind in Some Areas—But I’m a Good Person

So I Don’t Need the Lord! — I’m Fine the Way I Am!

- a) Maybe I’m Blind to My Pride... Or Blind to My Anger...
- b) Blind to My Jealousy or Resentment... Blind to My Sin
- c) (Proverbs 16:2) All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes,
But the Lord weighs the spirits.
- d) They Could’ve just given up trying—but they didn’t!

3. God Wants Us to Have a Persistent Faith...

- a) Jesus Told Us... Ask, Seek, Knock... (**Matthew 7:7–8**)
 - b) the Greek tense here is: Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking
 - (1) Keep ASKING—until you receive...
 - (2) Keep SEEKING—Until You Find
 - (3) Keep KNOCKING—Until it's Opened
 - c) This Requires a PERSISTENT FAITH — Not a SUPERFICIAL One
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2. THE NECESSITY OF TESTED FAITH (v.28)

A. 'DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?'

1. They Follow Jesus Into the House—and Jesus Asks them Point Blank...

- a) "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (v.28)

2. Why Would Jesus Ask Them This Question?

- a) Some People Don't Believe Christ at all
- b) Some Don't Believe He Has the Power to Help them
- c) Some Don't Believe Jesus Has the Interest to Care enough to help them

3. Jesus Is Using a Question to Test Their Faith—Is it Real or is it Superficial?

- a) Are They Willing to Admit it out loud for everyone to hear?
- b) Are They Ashamed of their Faith?

B. GOD EXPECTS US TO HAVE A TESTED FAITH

1. Fair weather faith is like a fair weather friend...

- a) And A Lot of People Are Just Fair weather friends of the Lord
- b) They Believe When it's Convenient or when it's easy or rewarded...

2. Remember the Parable of Sower? (**Matthew 13:3–7**)

- a) Jesus is Talking About Different Types of Hearts:
- b) The Shallow Heart, Distracted Heart, Rocky Heart, Choked Heart or the Good Heart

3. Often Before Jesus Would Preform a Miracle—

He Would Challenge a Person's Heart to Draw them to greater faith

3. THE NECESSITY OF TRUE FAITH (v.29)

A. 'ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH LET IT BE TO YOU'

1. Jesus Would Not Let Their Faith Be Disappointed!

- a) They Asked—and it was Given,
- b) They Were Seeking—and Found
- c) They Were Knocking—and Jesus opened their Eyes!

2. Their TRUE VISION Was Proof of their TRUE FAITH!

- a) The Pharisees who could see—could not see that Jesus was the Messiah prophesied about in the OT
- b) But These Men Who Were Blind Could See that Jesus Was the Messiah—Even Though they Were Physically Blind!

B. GOD WANTS US TO HAVE A TRUE FAITH

1. Faith is the Conduit —

a) “Faith is the conducting link between man’s emptiness and God’s fullness.” (Trench)

2. Because without Faith We Can’t be pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6)

a) No man is dealt with according to his profession, or income or status...

b) He is dealt with according to his faith:

3. But Our TRUE Vision Must Be Proof of our TRUE FAITH!

In Other words—We Can See Spiritually Now!

a) We Can See Beyond what is apparent—to that which is Real!

b) We Can See Beyond What is Temporary—to that Which is Eternal

c) We Can See Beyond the Lies—to the Truth that Sets us free!

4. All the Fighting and Anger and Resentment isn’t Just About Class Conflict

a) It’s apart of the Spiritual Battle (1 Jn 2:9–11)

b) Satan Has Blinded the World so it CANNOT SEE...

Except Through the Eyes of Envy, Lust, Hatred and Murder (2 Cor. 4:4)

c) Until We Step Out of the Darkness Into His Light! (2 Cor. 4:6)

“Darkness cannot drive our darkness, only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive our hate, only love can do that.” (MLK)

4. THE REWARD OF TRUE FAITH (v.30)

A. ‘AND THIER EYES WERE OPENED...’

1. And the First Person They See is JESUS! –that’s amazing!

2. Jesus is the Only One Who Can Set the Captives Free From the Prison of Darkness — because He is the Light of the World!

3. Jesus Read from Isaiah when He Launched His Ministry (Isaiah 61:1-2)

B. GOD WILL REWARD TRUE FAITH

1. When We Fully Trust in Him (Ps 37:5)

a) Just as Jesus Says: (Mark 11:22–24)

2. Do You Believe That? It’s going to take FAITH in God to Believe

a) I Heard about a caller who had called in to a political news talk show last week...

b) They said, I need some encouragement and hope, because w/ everything going on,
I am so upset and discouraged for our country.

c) The Radio Host said: Try This—TURN OFF THE NEWS

d) Turn of the News Entirely for 1 week and Tell Me if It helps [Was He Right?!]

3. (Isaiah 26:3) WHO: You will keep him... WHAT: in Perfect Peace...

HOW? Whose Mind is Stayed on You... WHY? Because He Trusts in You!

a) Is Your Trust in Politicians? They Can’t Save You—they Don’t even Care about you!

b) Doctors? They Can’t Even Agree! News Media? They have an Agenda!

c) **So Where is Your Faith?** > If it’s in Them—No Wonder You Have No Peace!

d) **If Your Faith is in God—He Will Give You Peace!**

5. THE REJECTION OF FAKE FAITH (v.30-31)

A. 'JESUS STERNLY WARNED THEM SAYING, SEE THAT NO ONE KNOW IT'

1. **Jesus Told Jarius and His Wife not to tell anyone...**
 - a) He Told the Leper He Healed Not to Tell Anyone and He did, and it Hindered Jesus Ministry (**Mark 1:45**)
 - b) And He Tells these two men not to tell, and they disobey Him and tell!
2. **Why Wouldn't Jesus Want Everyone to Know?**
 - a) If Jesus Was Leading a Movement—Isn't More People More Power?
3. **I Believe the Reason Was Because It Would Attract Crowds Who Wanted to Use Jesus For their Own Agenda...**
 - a) When Jesus Fed the 5,000 — They Wanted to Take Him and Force Him to Be King
 - b) Some Crowds Weren't Following Jesus in Faith—But in their own Selfish Ambition
 - c) If He Can miraculously Feed 5,000 people—than He can feed an army!
 - d) Let's make Jesus King So He Can Overthrow Our Slave Masters the Romans and We Can Become the Super-power of the World!

B. GOD WILL NOT REWARD A FAKE FAITH

1. **Jesus Was Not Interested in Adoring Crowds who would eventually want to use Jesus for their own Agenda**
 - a) This May Have Been the Problem with Judas
 - b) Judas Knew Jesus! He Walked and Talked with Jesus
 - c) He Spent 3 years with Jesus!
 - d) But *"the Heart Wants What it Wants—or it doesn't Care."* (Emily Dickenson)
2. **"The tragedy of Judas is that he refused to accept Jesus for who He was, and tried to make Jesus what he wanted Him to be. It is not Jesus who can be changed by us, it is us who must be changed by Jesus. The tragedy of Judas is the tragedy of the man who thought he knew better than God."**

(Barclay)
3. **Satan Blinds the Minds of those who do not love the truth...**

God's Word Opens Our Eyes So we Can See

 - a) It's fascinating that Saul of Tarsus was spiritually blind but could see
 - b) So Jesus Blinded him physically so he could see spiritually!
 - c) Then sent him to open the eyes of the blind spiritually! (**Acts 26:18**)

CONCLUSION:

1. **Jesus is the Light of the World (**John 8:12**)**
 - a) He is Light and in Him is no darkness at all!
2. **He is Able to Do Far Above Anything we Ask or Think!**

Will You Let Him Open Your Eyes of Faith?