

The Healing of Two Blind Men, and the Healing of a Demon-possessed Man

Matthew 9:27-38

Matthew 9:27-38, *“When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, ‘Son of David, have mercy on us!’”* ²⁸ *And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’* They said to Him, *“Yes, Lord.”* ²⁹ *Then He touched their eyes, saying, ‘According to your faith let it be to you.’* ³⁰ *And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, ‘See that no one knows it.’* ³¹ *But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.*

³² *As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.* ³³ *And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, ‘It was never seen like this in Israel!’* ³⁴ *But the Pharisees said, ‘He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.’*

³⁵ *Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.* ³⁶ *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.’* ³⁸ *Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

Background Notes

In verse 35 we see our Lord’s three-fold ministry when He walked here on earth: *“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”* Teaching, preaching, and healing characterized our Lord’s ministry. These three things should characterize our ministry as well. Whether we’re individuals serving the Lord, or whether we’re together as a fellowship serving the Lord, we should **teach the Word**, and **proclaim the gospel**, and **meet the needs** of people around us. As individuals, we may not be gifted preachers or teachers or miracle workers, but **together** we can have this three-fold ministry!

Notice that there must be **balance** in our ministry. Just preaching and teaching the Word of God without caring for people’s needs is not following the example of our Lord. And just meeting people’s physical needs without preaching and teaching the Word is certainly not biblical – that’s a “social gospel.” Just meeting the needs of a person on the road to hell is not doing them any favors, is it? So there must be balance in our ministry! Let’s follow the model of our Lord Jesus, and live out all three parts of His three-fold ministry.

Notice the focus and content of our Lord's preaching and teaching ministry. *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages...preaching the gospel of the kingdom..."* (v35). He proclaimed **"the gospel of the kingdom."** What was "the gospel of the kingdom"? The gospel of the kingdom was a sincere bona fides offer of the Davidic Kingdom that our Lord made to Israel. It was the kingdom that was promised and prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures. But when Israel's King came, the nation rejected her King and His Kingdom, so the promises and prophecies of the earthly kingdom were not fulfilled at that time.

Those promises will be fulfilled, however, when the Jewish people's hearts are changed, and they are willing to receive their Messiah - the Messiah that they once rejected. All this will come to pass in the future. Read Romans 11 in this connection. In the meantime, the gospel of the grace of God goes out to anyone and everyone who will receive the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

Doctrinal Points

1. The Lord can remove darkness and bring light.

"...You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..." (1 Peter 2:9). When we become Christians we are brought out of spiritual darkness into the marvelous light of God's grace and truth in Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 says, *"whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

The Lord can remove darkness and bring light. We see this great truth illustrated here in Matthew 9 in the miracle of the healing of the blind men. Remember - the miracles of the Lord Jesus not only back up His claim to be God, but all His miracles were designed to teach spiritual truth.

"Son of David" is a Messianic term, so the fact that the blind men cried out *"Son of David, have mercy on us!"* demonstrates that the blind men recognized Jesus was the Messiah. Notice the Lord's response: *"Do you believe that I am able to do this?"* And they said to Him, *"Yes, Lord."* When the Lord Jesus touched their eyes, He said, *"According to your faith let it be to you."* Their faith was not placed on some vague, unfounded hopes, or faith in some kind of magical healing power. No, their faith **in Jesus as the Messiah!** These blind men believed that Jesus had the power to heal them because He is the Son of God. Their eyes were opened – the light had come!

What a wonderful illustration of salvation! The Lord can remove darkness and bring light. Have you come out of spiritual darkness into the marvelous light of Christ? Now, as those who have been brought into that light, we are to **walk in that light**, and fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7).

Why did the Lord tell the blind men not to tell anyone that they had been healed? That happened quite frequently in our Lord's ministry. Why? The reason is that the Lord didn't want people following Him **just** because of His healing power and His miracles. He was looking for people to place their true faith in Him as the Messiah. The Lord is looking for true faith today, and when people place their faith and trust in Him as Savior, the Lord will remove darkness and bring light!

2. The Lord can remove demons and bring healing.

This next miracle teaches us that demon possession is real, and demon possession can cause real physical problems. In this case, the man could not speak because he was possessed by a demon.

Notice that the Bible is **not** teaching here that all physical problems are caused by demon possession. **Certainly not!** There are many different reasons and causes for sickness and disease and other physical problems. If you have laryngitis and you can't speak, it has nothing to do with demons. You can't speak because you have an inflammation of the larynx. But here in Matthew 9 the man couldn't speak because he was possessed by a demon.

There are situations today where evil spirits, or demons, are the causes of some physical problems. The Lord can remove demons and bring healing – then and today! On some occasions, in a clear case of demon possession, the Lord may use believers to cast out evil spirits, with great caution and through much prayer.

Of course the obvious question after that statement is, "How do we know if a problem is caused by demons?" That knowledge comes from the Holy Spirit through fervent prayer and concern, and I believe that the Lord will give us sensitivity in this area. When believers sense that there is a problem of this nature, they should gather together and pray for healing. They should pray fervently for the Lord to remove the evil spirits - if indeed the illness or problem is caused by demon possession.

In fact, that's what we should do for all kinds of diseases and sicknesses. We should gather together and pray for healing! It may not be the Lord's will to heal in every case, and we certainly know that. But as verse 35 indicates, **the Lord is able** heal every sickness and every disease. The Lord can remove demons and bring healing.

Practical Application

Pray for workers!

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (v36-38).

In verse 34 we see the terrible sin of the Pharisees. They actually attributed our Lord's miracle-working power to the power of Satan! How terrible! How sad!

Fortunately, this was not the response of all the people. In fact, the Lord saw the multitudes as weary and scattered, like sheep that have no shepherd to care for them. All the people needed was a shepherd! The Good Shepherd had come and lived among them, but they didn't recognize and know Him.

The Lord also likened the multitudes to a crop that was ready to be harvested - but harvesters were needed, and there were not enough workers. Workers were needed! In His great compassion, the Lord said, "Pray for workers! Pray for laborers!"

Are we praying for workers? We don't have to pray for the harvest, because the harvest is plentiful! We need to pray for workers to bring in the harvest. The harvest is plentiful in your neighborhood. The harvest is plentiful where you work. The harvest is plentiful in this land and around the world - but workers are few. Where are the workers and laborers?

The Lord said, "...*the laborers are few.*" Notice that the Lord didn't say here that Christians who love the Lord are few. There are certainly enough Christians to evangelize the world. He said that **workers** or **laborers** are few. That's the problem. There aren't enough workers to gather the harvest!

Are you a **worker**? Or are you just a Sunday morning attendee? The crop is out there and it's ready to be harvested, but too many Christian are "on break."

Where are the workers? Pray for workers to be sent into His harvest!