

and don't. Are you a sincere, repentant, steadfast, follower of Jesus? The gospel message is serious about salvation, bringing us out of bondage to sin, and in service to God. When Jesus saves, that is what happens. Are you a saved sinner, one who was blind, but now you see, yes, through Jesus and His gospel ministry?

Notice with me, very briefly yet, our last point about Matthew 20:29-34. It is a precious Scripture in giving such a simple message, such a salvation message, such a serious message, and lastly, such a splendid message. All I want to say here is that what our text tells is splendid surely, when you think not only how true it is and how Christ honouring proclaiming Jesus as only Saviour and Lord, but just think too how this passage has been a means for the opening of the eyes of many sinners spiritually speaking! Who can tell how many conversions took place even just through this precious gospel word! It is splendid the way God is still pleased today by His Holy Spirit to use this Word, this precious gospel even now. It is a passage that can and will so thrill God's people time and again, and a passage that God in His sovereign grace uses to save sinners in an initial and radical way, opening eyes of the spiritually blind, and making alive the spiritually dead, and saving lost and hopeless sinners, also even just through the foolishness of preaching this precious gospel story of long ago.

The precious gospel of Matthew 20:29-34. Don't you just love it too for being such a simple gospel passage, such a summary gospel passage, such a serious gospel passage, and such a splendid gospel passage? May this message leave no one listening unsaved, and may it make us all testify in joyful faith and praise and commitment to God and His gospel cause:

His truth unchanged shall ever stand
He saves from strong oppression's hand;
In Him the sad a Helper find,
He feeds the poor and heals the blind.

Praise ye the Lord, His praise proclaim,
And, O my soul, bless thou His Name;
Yea, I will sound His praise abroad,
And ever bless, the Lord, my God.

Amen? Amen!

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BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4



THE PRECIOUS GOSPEL!

The title of this message is "The Precious Gospel" based on Matthew 20:29-34. Let me first read these verses from the Holy and inspired, infallible Word of God. *"And as they [Jesus and His disciples] departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? They say unto Him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him."*

This is the text we will focus on under the theme, "The Precious Gospel!" Why do I say that this Scripture passage is giving us such precious gospel? Notice with me, for one, what a simple gospel story this is. It is so simple, even the very young children can hear it and understand it. What happened here? Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, en route to the cross of Calvary, passes through Jericho and there two blind men call on Him for help. They cry out to Jesus, *"Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David"*, and they don't let up so calling out to Him, even when discouraged by others. Their needs were so great, no one and nothing will stop them from calling out to Jesus.

And guess what happens? We are told Jesus stands still hearing their crying out to Him, and He calls for them to come before Him, and then asks them, *"What will ye that I shall do unto you?"* The blind men say, *"Lord, that our eyes may be opened"* [that we may be healed of our blindness]! The passage brings out that Jesus then also heals them, exactly as they requested. It was amazing, the miraculous healing that Jesus in compassion performed here. Jesus, you see, is not only a human but He is God come in the flesh, He is very God and very man in one person, and He is the Great Son of David, the Messiah, and see Him here showing mercy and compassion and almighty help to those who called to Him in their need. The text tells us the two went on and followed Jesus after this miracle.

That is the story in our passage - the true story! It is a simple story proclaiming in our needs we should go to Jesus and call out to Him, for He is

full of compassion and mighty to save! Are you attracted to Jesus from this passage of Scripture? Maybe you say, 'But I'm not blind, and I don't have any needs presently, so why would I be attracted to this Jesus, and why at all should I call out to Him also to have mercy on me?' Here we come to our second point. Quite clearly not only is it a simple story we have here, but it is a salvation story as well. In these two men with their physical blindness we have a picture of ourselves in our spiritual blindness. The Bible teaches in the first chapters of Genesis when God first created man, Adam and Eve, He created them perfect and good. But as Genesis 3 tells us, then man fell into sin, tempted by Satan, and they and the whole human race coming from them are born in sin, and having sinful and corrupt hearts by nature.

The result of our fall into sin and the blindness of our hearts and minds before God is that we have fallen into misery, and we can do nothing of ourselves to get out of our predicament before God. We cannot fix our own problems, especially in our relationship with the holy and righteous God. Our sins make us guilty and condemned before God and our sinfulness make it impossible for us of ourselves to be reconciled and restored to God. By nature on our own we won't even ever seek for that, but we blindly, foolishly, and wickedly follow our own sinful worldly ways! In these two blind beggars and their misery, you need to see the reality of each of our lives before God and this world. We are blind, helpless, and hopeless, left to ourselves.

But now the Bible's gospel message is God so loved this world, He sent His Son into the world to be the Savior of sinners, to come and seek and save sinners. To save sinners Jesus had to come and pay the punishment for sin we deserve, which He bore in fullness especially on the cross, and at the same time Jesus had to live the sinless, perfect life that God justly may expect and demand from us. This saving work Jesus came to fulfill when He lived here on earth, and now the gospel call is, as you and I realize something of the misery of our sins and sinfulness and call out to Jesus for His mercy and saving help, then this Jesus, the Great Son of David, will stop and hear us.

Bring your need, your sin, your guilt, your trouble, your sorrow, your despair, your fear, your burden to the Lord Jesus and call out to Him like these two blind men, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David!" and don't quit so calling to Jesus, even when others may say, "Will you quit it please!" or your own heart may say, "God won't be gracious to me anymore, not after what I have all done so wrong and wicked." Our text calls out, never mind whatever may make you think God won't hear you or be merciful to you, to go to Jesus the Saviour with all your sin and misery and blindness and trouble as this gospel story brings out. Jesus will stop and hear, yes, even a sinner like you and like me. This passage proclaims the Lord has compassion on all who cry to Him for His mercy as these blind men did, and

He stands ready to help and ready to forgive, ready to save and to cleanse and to renew! There is no Friend like the lowly Jesus and no Saviour so able and willing to save as He!

For sure, this is a salvation story we have here. These two blind men living in Jericho were, you could say, living in the city of destruction, blind and in great need for body and soul, but meeting Jesus and calling out to Him they were helped. They received not only physical eyesight again but they were given spiritual eyesight too. We can know this just from the way they called to Jesus, calling Him "Lord", and "Son of David", and the way they pleaded not for their rights and more external needs but they went to the deeper needs they had. They pleaded for mercy, and after receiving mercy, they went and followed Jesus. It all pictures the story of conversion, being brought out of darkness into the marvelous light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Can you see here with me how this passage drips with gospel tidings for sinners in darkness and need? Our root and core problem is we need Jesus to save us in His mercy and compassion and to be our Saviour and Lord in our heart and life. Do you confess this need and go to Jesus in your need? Is there anyone that doesn't yet know this? As Jesus is passing by through this message now, are you one who won't call out to Him, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David. Lord that my eyes may be opened!" C.H. Spurgeon, a great 19th century gospel preacher, commented once on the text about Jesus from Luke 15:2, "*This man receives sinners*", "This fact is still most sure [today], Jesus is still receiving sinners: would to God sinners would receive Him!" Are you someone, a sinner too, who will not receive Jesus, not repent and believe on Him, not call out to Him for His mercy and help out of your sin and misery, your bondage and burdens, your troubles and woe?

With Matthew 20:29-34, I am proclaiming to you the precious gospel! We see that in what a simple passage we have here and what a salvation passage. Notice also that this passage surely is also a serious passage. When something is most precious, you take it seriously, don't you? Jesus through His Word and by His Spirit is out to seek and to save sinners. But He will not always come where we are at, bringing His gospel. The gospel message is to be taken seriously as we hear it, and if we refuse to take it seriously then the Lord may no longer reach out to us with His well meant offer of mercy and grace. In our Scripture passage Jesus did not come again to Jericho. But when these blind beggars heard He was coming, through, they didn't hesitate to call out to Him, and as it were, to lay hold of Him. What about you?

These blind men, after they were healed, followed Jesus. When saved by Jesus, you don't argue about following after Him; it's what you really want to do, and then you become so sorry whenever in sin you won't