



April 5, 2020

F260 Bible Reading Plan

Week 13 (3/30/20)

Joshua 5:10-15, 6
Joshua 7-8
Joshua 23-24
Judges 2-3
Judges 4

Week 14 (4/6/20)

Judges 6-7
Judges 13-14
Judges 15-16
Ruth 1-2
Ruth 3-4

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:35-43

³⁵ As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

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

³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰ Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, I want to see," he replied.

⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

COMMENTARY

18:35-36. Jericho marked the last stage of the journey to Jerusalem for Jesus (see 12:51). One last climb up the mountain—and the fateful trip would end. But Jericho was the first stage of the journey for one man, a blind beggar. He sensed a crowd coming and wanted to know what was happening.

18:37-38. The crowd told him Jesus was coming through the town. Immediately he shouted for mercy. He used the messianic title, Son of David, identifying Jesus’ royal roots and implying that this one would be crowned in his ancestor’s place. Luke does not indicate how this man knew about Jesus.

18:39. The crowd had greater things in mind for Jesus than to tend to the whining of a blind beggar. But the beggar refused to be silenced. He lifted his voice again and again to Jesus.

18:40-41. Jesus illustrated his teaching that it was important to care for the poor. He turned his attention from the crowd to talk to a blind beggar. He had a question for the beggar. What did he really want Jesus to do? The blind beggar did not hesitate. He wanted to see the world.

18:42-43. Jesus did not hesitate. “Your faith has healed you,” he replied (see 7:50; 8:48; 17:18). This disabled, poverty-stricken man refused to give up. He trusted in Jesus whom his eyes could not see. He gave God glory and praise, and this started a chain reaction among the crowd. Educated, religious Pharisees could not come to such faith. Even the disciples had difficulty understanding. A blind beggar joined a sinful woman, a woman who had suffered for twelve years, and a Samaritan leper in exercising healing faith. Of such is the kingdom of God.

MAIN POINT

Jesus brings spiritual sight to those who cry out to Him for mercy.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When you were younger, what would you say you were most “blind” to: Good things about your parents? Bad things about your parents? Your own abilities? Flaws in a friend? Injustices of the world? Religion? Something else?

What has been the most dramatic, eye-opening event you have experienced in your life? How did it happen?

If you completely lost your sight, what would you miss seeing the most?

Modern medicine and technology can allow most people who struggle with physical sight to regain it in some measure. Spiritual blindness, however, impacts us all at one time or another and, in many cases, lasts a lifetime. We need God to open our eyes to the truth.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- Ask a volunteer to read Luke 18:35-43.

The healing of the blind man was the final miracle Jesus performed before entering Jerusalem to be crucified. Even as He was headed into the city where He would be betrayed, arrested, accused, beaten, mocked, and crucified, Jesus wasn't focused on Himself, but on meeting the needs of other people.

Of all the miracles He could have performed, why might Jesus have chosen to restore physical eyesight just before He entered Jerusalem and went to the cross?

Compare what the crowd told the blind beggar in verse 37 with what the man said in verse 38. Why do you think the blind man called Jesus the Son of David?

Who would you say was suffering the most from spiritual blindness: the blind man or the people positionally closest to Jesus who were telling him to be quiet (v. 39)? Explain.

Why do you think Jesus asked the man, who was obviously blind, "What do you want me to do for you?"

When we come to Jesus asking for something, He already knows what we need. But He wants us to ask Him anyway because He's interested not only in what we ask for, but also the heart behind our request. Our attitude and purpose in following Jesus have everything to do with our ability to remain fully engaged.

What did the answer the man gave in verse 41 reveal about his heart?

The request of the blind man showed humility and trust. He trusted Jesus to do something no one else could do or would imagine. To present a true, honest, gut-level

request like this before Jesus took a tremendous amount of trust. Being healed from our spiritual blindness and receiving spiritual sight demands the same kind of trust. It requires us to humbly and honestly confess to God our own great needs.

Do you ever struggle to pray honestly with God? Why?

Were Jesus to come to you right now and ask, “What do you want Me to do for you?”, how would you respond?

When people ask us how we are doing, we usually respond by saying, “Fine” even if that’s not the truth. We often spin our situations and hide what’s going on in our lives because we’re afraid to live in the freedom that Jesus offers. Many times, bondage seems easier than honesty because that level of honesty requires us to face our own great need.

Imagine being able to see for the first time. What would you want to do and experience? Why do you think this man chose to follow Jesus?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

This man was able to immediately see clearly. In your own coming to Christ, what did you see immediately, and what have you been able to see only over the course of time? How does this speak to you about the nature of life in Christ and spiritual eyesight?

Is there a situation in your life where you need to ask God to help you recover your “sight” in the sense that you’ve lost your mission and purpose? What do you need to do about it?

Who is God specifically placing on your heart as someone who is spiritually blind? Plan a time to share with them this week.

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for His great compassion that He has for all people at all times. Ask God to help you recognize your spiritual blindness and come humbly and honestly to Him for His mercy.