



Matthew 9:27–31

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” 28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; 30 and their sight was restored. Jesus

warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” 31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

Reflection

(Today’s talk is given by Craig Tubman.)

I wonder, what is your view of Jesus? Who do you see as you have listened to Matthew’s account of Jesus life so far?

Today we have two men who are blind, yet their view of Jesus is crystal clear. They approach Jesus and cry out to him, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David.’ That’s an odd way to ‘see’ Jesus isn’t it? It had been 960 years since King David ruled. King David’s

Son was a guy called Solomon. So why would these two men be calling Jesus the Son of David? The reason for this is that the term Son of David was a well-worn phrase. A phrase that referenced God's promised saviour. If we travel back those 960 years before Jesus, we read in 2 Samuel Chapter 7 that God gives King David these words:

‘I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.’

So, Son of David was a term that was used to refer to this promised king.

But worth asking is why did these two

blind men think Jesus was this Son of David? Well key to answering this is knowing some of the other things written about God's coming King. Isaiah declared these words about him;

3 Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

4 say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,

he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution

he will come to save you.”

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be
opened

and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

(Isa 35:3–6)

The blind will see, the mute will talk, the deaf will hear, the lame will walk. That's the sign that this once-ever eternal King has arrived.

The great irony here in Chapter 9 of Matthew's account is that while these two blind men can't physically see Jesus, they can see him as clear as day. They have put the pieces together.

What has Matthew recorded for us about Jesus in Chapter's 8 and 9 so far? A man with leprosy has been healed, someone suffering paralysis has regained their strength, Peter's mother-in-law was healed of her fever, demons possession has been overcome and many others have been healed. Straight after this event, Jesus will

heal a man who has been mute for a long time. The blind will see, the mute will talk, the deaf will hear, the lame will walk. Of course Jesus can heal these men of their blindness – If he really is the Son of David, this act should be his very calling card!

It's interesting to note that this healing has only happened because these men have heard enough of Jesus to place their faith in him as the one promised from God. Yet at the end of this event, Jesus warns them sternly not to tell anyone about the healing. The word used here in the greek for 'sternly' is a term that refers to a deep groaning, a deep desire from the very inward part of yourself. Jesus really doesn't want them to go out and tell people what he has done for them. But that's a pretty tough ask! Receiving back your sight is

hard to cover up and we are told that they went out and shared it with everyone!

This isn't the only account of Jesus asking those he has healed to keep it quiet. Matthew records similar requests in chapters 12, 16 and 17. Why the secrecy? Surely if you had the power to heal blindness you'd want everyone to know? The secrecy was linked with Jesus identity and his mission. It seems Jesus did not want to be primarily associated with physical healings. They were certainly signs of his power and identity but far too parochial to encapsulate his real mission. Remember, the promised descendent of David was to reign over an eternal kingdom. What good is being healed of blindness if you are just going to die of sickness or old age 5, 10, 15 years later? No Jesus was on about some-

thing more than that. It was not until after his death and resurrection that Jesus then invites his disciples to go and tell people about him - the veil of secrecy is lifted. For it is only then that they could see that Jesus' mission was not primarily about soothing our pain now in the present, but to open up for us life eternal where the pain no longer existed. For that to happen, Jesus had to give up his life to take our punishment for sin and then rise from the grave to show that death has been defeated.

To truly see Jesus means to come to him in faith, trusting that his death was sufficient for your sin. That is, sufficient to deal with the mistakes and evil you have done in your past and even the mistakes and wrong you have done in the present.

His grace is sufficient for you. He has faced hell so that you don't have to. To truly see Jesus means to come to him in faith, trusting that his resurrection was the real and tangible sign of eternal life. The king of the eternal kingdom has come and he invites you to be a part of his kingdom by placing him as Lord and Saviour over your life.

Think & Pray

I wonder what you've seen of Jesus as you've explored Matthew's Gospel with us so far? I want to encourage you today to take some time to consider what it means for you to come to Jesus in faith? To put your trust in all that he has done and all that he is.

Consider how the firm and clear promise of sins forgiven and life forever is even greater than immediate healing in a finite present. Let this lead your time of prayer.