

In our study today, we encounter two remarkable individuals in the journey of Jesus to Jericho. The Bible tells us that a great crowd was following Him. Each person in that crowd had their own desires: some sought personal healing, others desired solutions to family issues, business struggles, or physical illnesses. Many simply wanted to see Jesus. Yet, amidst this multitude, Jesus uniquely met two extraordinary people.

1. The Blind Beggar

Luke 18:35-43 (ESV) recounts:

“As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ And he cried out, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Those who led the way rebuked him, telling him to be quiet. But he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me recover my sight.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.”

Reflection:

This blind man had no physical ability to approach Jesus. He could not see, walk, or hear Him clearly. Yet, by faith, he was the first to receive personal attention and healing from Jesus, surpassing all the sighted, mobile, and able-bodied individuals in the crowd.

Theologically, this illustrates faith as the primary channel of divine encounter (Hebrews 11:6). Physical limitations, societal status, or external obstacles do not prevent God's blessing. Sometimes, the greatest need breeds the most extraordinary faith.

2. Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Luke 19:1-6 (ESV) says:

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short in stature, he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus reached

the spot, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly."

Reflection:

Zacchaeus, though wealthy and influential, understood that money and status could not secure a spiritual encounter with Christ. He had to humble himself, climb a tree, and make the effort to position himself to see Jesus. Yet, he was the first in the crowd to be personally noticed by Jesus.

This teaches us that spiritual seeking requires intentional effort and humility (Matthew 5:6). God often honors the persistent, even when human means seem insufficient. True encounter is not about privilege, wealth, or social status—it is about faith, perseverance, and openness to Jesus.

Lessons for Us Today

Faith Trumps Limitations: Just as the blind man received sight and Zacchaeus a personal visit from Jesus, our weaknesses, lack of resources, or social standing do not block God's intervention when faith is active (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Persistence in Seeking God: Sometimes, obstacles—physical, social, or emotional—may make us feel far from God. Yet, persistent seeking, like shouting for mercy or climbing a tree, attracts Jesus' attention.

Position Yourself for Blessing: Don't compare yourself with others in faith. God notices those who earnestly seek Him, even if they appear least likely to succeed. You may become a blessing to many, even surpassing those who seemed spiritually advanced (Matthew 20:16).

Salvation is the Foundation: Encounters with Jesus begin with repentance and faith. If you have not yet accepted Christ, now is the time to invite Him into your life, repent of sin, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Once you do, Christ will lift His eyes upon you first.

Conclusion:

Whether you feel weak, limited, or disadvantaged, never underestimate the power of faith and persistence in seeking Jesus. The first to be blessed are not always the most capable or the most visible—they are those who seek Him earnestly and refuse to give up.

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