

Why Did Jesus Stop?

Matthew 20:29-34

It is a joy each week to be able to share with you from God's Word. Today, we're going to look in Matthew chapter 20, verses 29 through 34. It's also good to be able to have fellowship with you and to share prayer with you. Let's look to the Lord in prayer right now.

Father, we thank You today for this privilege of once again reading Your Word and sharing Your Word. I pray today, Lord, that You would open our minds and open our hearts to what You have for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

In Matthew chapter 20, verses 29 through 34, it says there: ²⁹*And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.* ³⁰*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.* ³¹*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.* ³²*And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?* ³³*They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.* ³⁴*So Jesus had compassion [on them], and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.*

Notice with me today the cry that stopped the Saviour. It's wonderful to know that the Saviour of the world, Jesus, will take time out to listen to the plea of such people as we have mentioned in this Scripture. The four blind men are the perfect picture of all sinners of today. This was a cry of personal concern from these men. In verse 31, it says, *[T]he multitude rebuked them ... but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, [thou] Son of David.*

Have mercy on us.... This was a personal concern. Before a sinner can get help from the Lord, that

person must get personally concerned about themselves. They must realize that there's a problem. And this personal concern from these blind men was not because they had been overtaken in some fault, but because of what had plagued them all their lives. This plagues every person in this world.

Roman chapter 5 and verse 12 says, *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* Before a person can come to the Lord Jesus, they must realize they have a problem. They must realize that this problem has plagued them throughout their lives. It's a problem of sin. *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* We see this in our Scripture today. It was a cry of personal concern.

And then, it is a cry of positive faith. Their faith, of these blind men, prompted by what they heard....and verse 30 says, *And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by....* They heard that Jesus was coming. They heard that it was Jesus. And so many times, an invitation is given to an unsaved person to receive Jesus. "Jesus is passing by," they're saying. If someone says, "Won't you receive Jesus as your Saviour now? Jesus is passing by." Is Jesus passing by you right now? Have you trusted Jesus as your Saviour? If you haven't trusted Him, then He's passing by right now, and He wants to give you what He was about to do for these blind men. Their cry proved they had faith to believe, that the Lord could cure them.

A person who is unsaved needs to have faith that God can cure them of the sin disease. Sin is a disease. It kills the body. It kills the soul. The soul

will live somewhere forever. Well, let me explain that. The soul of that person who has trusted Jesus will live with him forever in Heaven, or wherever Jesus is at. The person who has never trusted Jesus, the Bible says that there is a place prepared for them. Their soul will live on forever, but it will be quite different for that person who has never trusted Jesus, because the Bible teaches us that that person who has not trusted Jesus will be in everlasting torment in a devil's hell. Now, I know that that's hard for some people to understand, and it's hard for some people to...if you would...take. It's hard for some people to realize this, but thank God, through the Spirit of God, He can impart to that individual today that they need Jesus in order to go to Heaven.

Now, notice, it was not only a cry of personal concern from these men and not only a cry of positive faith, but it was a cry in opposition to the flesh. Verse 31 says, *And the multitude rebuked them....* And the attitude of the multitude here shows the attitude of the flesh today in an effort to keep souls away from the Lord. The multitude will try everything in the world to try and keep a person away from Jesus. The flesh will try everything in the world to keep a person away from Jesus. In fact, the devil even offered Jesus the world to keep Him off the cross. Had Jesus not gone to the cross and given His life for us, shed His blood on that cross, none of us would be able to go to Heaven today. But thank God, Jesus went to the cross. He gave His life for us. He shed His blood. He rose from the grave that we could have eternal life. This was a cry in opposition to the flesh of these blind men.

The natural man says you have no right to come to the Lord, and this is partly true. It is not within ourselves, but through our Lord Jesus Christ. It says in the Bible: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* (Ephesians 2:8-9). In other words, it's not of the flesh. It's not of the person. But it's

wholly, entirely of the Lord that we can claim eternal life today. It's by and through the shed blood of Jesus.

This was also a cry for rearranging natural conditions for these men. In verse 33, it says, *They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.* Jesus said, "What can I do for you? What do you want me to do for you?" And they said, *Lord, that our eyes may be opened.* It was a cry for rearranging natural conditions here. The men didn't want temporary but they wanted permanent relief. They wanted complete relief. They wanted complete transformation. They were not ashamed to speak boldly of their desire. They were tired of the old life and they wanted the new life granted.

And once again, if you're tired of your old life, if you're tired of the sin life that you're living in, you need to turn to Jesus today, and He will give you a new heart. He will place within you a new desire, a desire not to serve the world, not to serve the devil, but to serve Jesus.

These men also had a cry that was rewarded by the Saviour. Verse 34 says, *So Jesus had compassion [on them], and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.* Notice the compassion that Jesus had. Jesus knew these men meant business. The blessing He gave was instantaneous. It says there that he had compassion and touched them, and immediately they received their sight. That's the way it is with a person who comes to Jesus today. Immediately, there is a heart transplant that takes place within that individual. It's an instantaneous thing that changes the inward man. It's something that cannot be explained physically, but spiritually, the Holy Spirit speaks to the heart, and that heart is changed when that person says, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart." These men...their actions proved the effect and appreciation of a blessing. Notice what they did. After they received their sight, it says,

[I]mmediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Are you following Jesus today? Are you doing what He wants you to do with your life? The first thing He wants you to do is to trust Him as your Saviour.

“Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You today as my Saviour. I know I can’t save myself. Please give me my sight. Please heal my heart. Please give me a new heart so that I will be able to go to Heaven and be with You forever.”

If you’ll pray a prayer like that and turn from your sin, ask God to forgive you of your sin, ask Jesus to come into your heart, the Bible says, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name* (John 1:12). You have the promise of God today that He will save your soul.

If you’re a Christian today and you’ve had your eyes opened, you’ve been saved, you know you’re saved but you’re out of the will of God, you’re not serving Him, you need to pray this prayer. “Lord, restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation that I can rejoice with you.” If you’ll pray a prayer and ask God to forgive you and restore the joy of your salvation, He will restore you today that you can serve Him in all fullness of the Spirit.

Now, Father, I pray for these that are listening today that you would speak to their hearts. Whatever need they have today, Lord, I pray that you would touch them and help them to receive that help they need today. Whether lost or whether saved, may You deal with their hearts today. In Jesus’ name.

Let me invite you to tune in this same time next week for “It’s a Good Life,” but in the meantime, you can look at our website, www.LRWM.org. On that website, you can leave a request for prayer. We’ll be glad to pray with you of any need that you have. You can also let me know if you’ve made a decision for the Lord today, or any time that you have made a decision, you can go to that website and let me know of that decision, whether it be to receive Jesus as your Saviour or to get things right with God as a saved person. www.LRWM.org

We’ll be glad to send you a transcript of this program of “It’s a Good Life.” All you have to do is write me, www.LRWM.org.



Also on that website you can download a transcript or you can request a transcript to be sent to you. Once again let me remind you that this program is coming to you from Fruitland Park, Florida, and I appreciate your tuning in and listening to this program. I appreciate, more than you know, your prayers. You can pray for me. Pray that God would give me the voice to give me the things I need to say in order to help the people of this world to know Jesus and to help Christians renew their strength in the Lord. You can pray for me as I pray for you.

Until this same time next week, this is Lewis Woodard, thanking you for tuning in and saying this. It is a good life. May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.