



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **A Story of Need!**

**Luke 18:35-43**

**Message #55 of 60 – S845**

**Sermon given on May 26, 2019**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# A Story of Need!

**Luke 18:35-43**

## Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 18**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- It is good to be back at church – thankful to Pastor Randy for filling in for me while I was sick and Pastor Mark for covering while we were at the Men’s Retreat
- Getting sick is no fun – it gets in the way of the life I want to live
- We live in a world broken by sin, and one aspect of that brokenness is sickness, disease, illness
- My bout with bronchitis reminded me how much I need God for every breath that I take
- I know that my time being sick is just the briefest glimpse of what some people are living every day
- This morning we are going to look at a man who has been living in darkness for a long time
- He has an encounter with Jesus, God in the flesh, and his darkness is replaced by light
- Each of us is surrounded by the darkness that dominates this world
- And that darkness has a way of getting into us –**Ephesians 4:17-19**

**This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup>having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup>who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

- We have to consciously let the light drive it out **Romans 12:2**

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

- Only the words of God empowered by the Spirit of God based on the finished work of Son of God can drive out the darkness from my heart and mind

- One of those non-intuitive things of the faith that I am learning – The more my faith grows, the more I realize how much I need God to help me with that
- We are going to look at the account of Jesus healing a man in physical darkness and hopefully see how we need God’s help to escape the spiritual darkness of this world
- Let’s pray and then get into the text for today
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **A Story of Need!**
- Jesus is on the road making His way to Jerusalem
- With Him were the disciples and a multitude of people
- The roads would have been filled pilgrims making their way to participate in the very important religious event – Passover
- It is not hard to imagine thousands of people around Jesus
- **Luke 18:35-36**
- This account is also recorded in Matthew and Mark – Bartimaeus
- Blindness was not uncommon during this time
- Probably wasn’t born blind – he had known what it was like to see
- **Luke 18:37-38**
- At this point, Jesus has been actively ministering for three years
- He has been teaching about the kingdom of God and calling people to repent and turn to God
- He has also done so many miracles that people couldn’t keep track of them – including giving sight to the blind
- Bartimaeus had heard of Jesus of Nazareth – and he believed!
- He more than just believed that Jesus could heal him – “Son of David”
- That was a very specific title of someone the Jewish people were waiting for – someone who would do miraculous things **Matthew 12:22-23**

**Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”**

- They believed someone whose lineage could be traced back to King David would come to save them – the Messiah

- One of the signs proving someone was the Messiah was miracles
- So, by calling Jesus “Son of David” = I believe you are the Messiah
- This man desperately needed something, and he believed Jesus was the only person who could give it to Him
- Well, his faith was annoying to the people in the crowds
- **Luke 18:39**
- In many ways the blind man was a social outcast
- Most people would tolerate his existence, but they avoided him
- Brothers and sisters, if you are a Christian, this increasingly secular culture we live in is becoming less tolerant of our faith
- And they are going to tell us more and more to shut up
- Jesus was Bartimaeus’ only hope – he wasn’t going to be silenced
- Somehow, over the noise of the multitude, Bartimaeus’ voice reached the ears of his hope
- **Luke 18:40-41**
- Jesus always hears the cries of faith
- This world is filled with noise, but the voice of faith slices through the noise to the ears of our Savior
- Jesus asks Bartimaeus, “What do you want Me to do for you”?
- Why would Jesus ask Him that? Couldn’t He tell that he was blind?
- Of course He could! But Jesus wanted him to confess his true need!
- Too often when we come to God with our needs, we are not dealing with our true need
- I was sick a couple of weeks ago – started out as a head cold
- The way God created and designed the human body is amazing
- He created our bodies to be self-repairing
- If you cut your finger – a healthy body will go about healing itself
- When you have something like a head cold – you take something, not to heal the cold, but to manage the symptoms until the body can heal itself
- In the case of my head cold – it moved down into my chest – which in my experience with my body told me that I was going to need help in the healing process – went to doctor and got antibiotics
- Until verse 41, Bartimaeus hadn’t actually said what he wanted Jesus to do - Well, it is obvious! Really?

- He could have asked Jesus to deal with the symptoms of his problem
  - For money so that he didn't have to beg - Or for a better place to beg
  - Or for a service dog so he could get around better
  - Listen, many of us are doing that when we go to God
  - We ask God to deal with the symptoms of our needs – we ask for Alka-Seltzer Plus when we need antibiotics **James 4:2-3**
- Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.**
- How do you think Jesus would have responded to Bartimaeus if instead of asking to receive his sight, he asked Jesus to give him enough money so that he didn't have to beg – so that he could buy a house and hire people to take care of him for the rest of his life
  - That is not the life God created Bartimaeus for
  - God answers the prayers that help us and others to live the life that Jesus came and died for
  - Bartimaeus expressed his true need to Jesus believing that Jesus could give it to him
  - **Luke 18:42-43**
  - This man had an impossible need – faith in Jesus makes the impossible possible
  - Without supernatural intervention, he would have spent the rest of his life in darkness
  - We have no way of knowing how long this man had been blind
  - But, imagine it, his sightless eyes seeing only blackness
  - Matthew says Jesus touched his eyes
  - ‘immediately he received his sight’ – the very first thing he saw was the precious face of his Savior
  - I believe that will be the experience of every Christian after we leave this life – we will awaken from the darkness of this world look into the face of Jesus
  - Until then, how should we live? Different than this world! **Ephesians 5:8-10**
- For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.**
- What can we learn from Bartimaeus?

- Three quick things – **Bringing your needs to Jesus!**
- First thing – **Know your true need!**
- Bartimaeus was blind – he knew it – knew it was keeping him from the life he wanted
- You were created by God for a purpose and Jesus came so that you could fulfill that purpose **John 10:10**

**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

- Your greatest need is to be more like Christ
  - And all our prayers ought to be focused on achieving that for ourselves and those around us
  - Ask yourself, ‘Why do I want what I want?’
  - Second thing – **Recognize your Savior!**
  - Bartimaeus knew Jesus was the only one who could meet his need!
  - Listen, as long as you believe that you or anyone or anything can meet your need – God won’t
  - I went to the doctor because I knew I couldn’t heal myself
  - In the same way, only God can make me more like Christ – my part is faithful obedience
  - Third thing – **Cry out to Him!**
  - Chapter 18 began with the parable of the persistent widow
  - Bartimaeus would not be silenced
  - Once you know your true need and recognize that only Jesus can meet that need – start crying out to Jesus
  - In verse 40 – ‘Jesus stood still’ – He was on His way to Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world – He paused to respond to this man’s faith
  - Jesus is still responding to the needs of His people **Hebrews 7:25**
- Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**
- What do you need so that you can glorify God more, love others better, and grow faith deeper?
  - The story God is trying to write in your life is a good story – the world needs to hear the story of how He brought you out of darkness into the light of His Son Jesus – Tell them the story of Jesus in you!
  - **Pray!**