

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme:** *Christ the King*

**Outline:**

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

**Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.**

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In the first 10 chapters of Matthew, we have various lines of evidence put forth showing that Jesus is indeed the bona fide Messiah of Israel. Then in chapters 11 and 12 we have the rejection of the King as seen in Israel’s representative spiritual leaders claiming that Jesus did His miracles by the power of Satan.

This marked a definitive turning point in the ministry of Christ in which as a form of judicial judgment He began to speak to them in parables as seen in Matthew 13. The key point made in these parables was that the kingdom previously offered to Israel was now being put on hold. The kingdom program was now being delayed. No longer is the kingdom presented as being at hand.

Then in the section on the revelations of the King in chapters 14-16 we have the climactic issue of Jesus ministry to Israel brought out where Jesus asks His disciples, “**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?**” (Mt. 16:13). This was the ultimate issue in Christ’s ministry before Israel.

In rejecting Jesus as their Messiah in what way did they reject Him? Did they reject Him as their Savior who came to die on the cross for their sins? No this was not the issue yet at this point before the cross. Rather, they rejected Him as Messiah-God. This was the basis of their rejection.

As Jesus said to the Jews in John 8:24, “**if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins**”. In Luke 19:11-27 Jesus told the parable of the 10 Minas and made the point that it was about His enemies who did not want Him to reign over them (v. 27).

Jesus presented Himself as Messiah-God – as Lord, and Israel rejected these Lordship claims. This was their great SIN in rejecting Jesus. As they told Pilate in John 19:7, “**We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.**” They understood His claims of deity – they just refused to accept it!

In contrast Peter in his great confession said to Jesus, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**” and Jesus in turn said He would build His Church on this truth (cf. Mt. 16:16-18).

Then in chapters 17-20 we have the instructions of the King as He was preparing His disciples for a post-cross reality. His ministry more and more was focused on private instruction and less and less on public discourse. And more and more the emphasis was now on the cross.

Last time we left off with Jesus emphasizing that He as the Son of Man came not “**to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.**” (Mt. 20:28). And today we conclude this section on the “instructions of the King” in Matt. 20:29-34 with Jesus demonstrating His mission of service in the healing of two blind men.

The connection is this: The apostles were thinking about who will have the best positions in the kingdom, but Jesus emphasized serving and that those who will be great in the kingdom are servants in the here and now, and those who will be “first” in the kingdom will be those who serve as a slave in the here and now.

What a contrast: Instead of promotion of SELF Jesus by example heals these two blind outcasts on His way to the cross. What a lesson!

The parallel passages to Matt. 20:29-34 are found in Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18:35-43. This story links to the emphasis on Jesus serving as just mentioned in 20:28 and then forms a bridge to the emphasis on Who Jesus is as the Son of David which culminates in the Triumphal Entry which follows. Up until the very end Jesus is serving and thereby providing a clear witness to Who He truly is as Israel's Messiah. And in doing so provides a clear serving example for those who follow Him.

### **Matthew 20:29–34 (NKJV)**

**29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.**

Jericho was about 15 miles northeast of Jerusalem – meaning it was about a day's journey from Jerusalem. So, the destination of Jerusalem where Jesus would be crucified is not far off now.

### **Side # 2**



In considering the parallel accounts some have here accused the Bible at this point of contradicting itself because Matthew and Mark have Jesus coming out of Jericho (Mt. 20:29; Mk. 10:46) while Luke has Him coming near to Jericho.

However, there are several plausible explanations. The most common explanation is that there were in fact two Jericho's during the time of Jesus. There was the old city of Jericho in distinction to a new Jericho built about a mile away. So, depending on which Jericho you are referencing you could say Jesus was leaving Jericho or that He was entering Jericho. And both would be right – depending on your frame of reference.

There are various examples of cities in the Bible that have both an old part and a new part. One example would be the old city of Joppa (also called Jaffa). The old city is still there today but in addition there is a new city along side of it that is called Tel Aviv where we find the key international airport in Israel.

**Slide # 3**

We have a similar thing with Jericho. The old Jericho steeped in history as found in the OT was largely in ruins (cf. Josh 5-6). The new Jericho a mile away had been built up by Herod.

**Slide # 4**

So, it is very possible that Jesus was leaving the ruins of the old city and entering the new which would satisfy all accounts which are merely reported from different perspectives. There are other possible explanations, but this is the most common.

It should be remembered that the writers of the gospels often telescoped events and selectively chose what they wanted to include because they were thematically making a point. In such a case there is no contradiction its just that the writer doesn't fill in all the details. There are no contradictions in the Bible. What sometimes seems to be the case always has plausible explanations when examined more closely.

It is to be remembered that the synoptics often present variety in reporting, offering augmentation, not contradiction. – **Ed Glasscock**

Jesus was very popular at this point although a very controversial figure because of the hostility of the Jewish religious leaders. And so a great multitude followed Him. However, the large crowd at this point is probably also accounted for by that fact that they were pilgrims making their way up to Jerusalem for the annual Passover feast.

**30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”**

The other two synoptic (similar) gospels of Mark and Luke present only one blind man. Again, there is no contradiction because they don't say there was ONLY one, but rather they focus on the ONE. This is probably because the one was the more prominent spokesman – the more vocal of the two.

Mark specifically names the more prominent one as being Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus. This would suggest that perhaps Bartimaeus became well known in the early church and was personally known by Mark.

Some have underscored that Matthew in writing to Jews brought out the fact of the two blind men because in Jewish culture everything of great importance was confirmed by 2 or 3 witnesses (cf. Deut. 17:6; 19:15; also see Matt. 9:27).

When these two blind men found out the commotion was all about Jesus passing by they began to cry out, **“Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”**

To the crowd this was **“Jesus of Nazareth”** as seen in Luke 18:37. They told the blind men that **“Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.”** But these blind men saw more than the crowd. They saw Him as the Lord, the Son of David and responded accordingly.

They **“cried”** out denotes a loud cry of intensity. This is the word used of the Canaanite woman who cried out for Jesus to heal her daughter (Mt. 15:22). It is a cry of desperation. This same word is used in reference to the crowd crying out for Christ's crucifixion (Mt. 15:13-14). Thus, it was a LOUD cry. This the same word used of Jesus crying out from the cross “with a loud voice” in Matthew 27:50.

This was an impassioned cry – one of desperation. Jesus was passing by. This was their opportunity – very possibly their only and last opportunity.

They cried out for mercy (Gk. eleeo). Crying out for mercy is the position of humility. It recognizes that I am not worthy but asks for pity. Mercy extends compassion to those suffering. Mercy cares and seeks to relieve misery.

### **Slide # 5**

The 'merciful' are characterized by a caring attitude for those who are in misery. - **Spiros Zodhiates**

They call on Jesus as Lord and as the Son of David. Lord means "Master". Some say that the word "Lord" here in verses 30 and 31 is textually questionable. However, in verse 33 there is no debate that they referred to Him as Lord and also the cross reference in Luke 18:41 is very clear.

### **Slide # 6**

**Luke 18:41 (NKJV)**

**41** saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "**Lord**, that I may receive my sight."

It is true that sometimes "Lord" is used in the sense of polite address prior to the resurrection of Christ. But here in this context they are crying out for mercy and calling Jesus by His Messianic title "Son of David" which shows that they recognized His Lordship authority.

While the crowd referred to Jesus as merely "Jesus of Nazareth" these blind men called Him the "**Son of David**". That is a power packed Messianic designation that is grounded in the OT Scriptures. The Messiah would be the One in charge of the kingdom bringing about kingdom restoration. Matthew makes this Messianic designation the cornerstone of his gospel as seen in the very first verse of the book.

### **Slide # 7**

**Matthew 1:1 (NKJV)**

**1** The book of the **genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham:

Back in the OT God made special promises to David in what is called "The Davidic Covenant" (2 Sam. 7:12-16; 1 Chron. 17:11-14; 2 Chron. 6:16). We might call this THE ROYAL COVENANT.

God promised David a Son that would succeed him as King and rule forever. This Son would sit on David's throne forever and rule over an eternal kingdom.

### **Slide # 8**

#### **2 Samuel 7:16 (NKJV)**

**16** And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' "

The right to rule comes through David. Thus, this Son of David would be the Messiah. Sometimes the Son of David is called the greater David. He is related physically to David as his heir, but at the same time is GREATER than David in that He is David's Lord – and Lord over all.

### **Slide # 9**

#### **Romans 1:3 (NKJV)**

**3** concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

#### **Revelation 22:16 (NKJV)**

**16** "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

As the "Root" Jesus is the Creator of David as the "Offspring" He is the descendant of David. As the "Son of David" He has the right to the Davidic throne.

In Genesis 49:10 we have this very important prophecy...

### **Slide # 10**

#### **Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)**

**10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

The **scepter** is a symbol of royal power. Government and rulership belongs to the tribe of Judah. The royal dignity attained in Judah (through David) was made permanent by the Davidic Covenant which is to be fully realized in the Kingship of Jesus Christ, Who is the "greater David".

From David on, the recognized leadership role on the throne over Israel belonged to Judah; and more specifically, to the line of David.

After the fall of the Judah (in 586 B.C.), a king has never been seated on the throne in Jerusalem. The next King to come was Jesus. He presented Himself to Israel as her legitimate King, but they rejected Him. Therefore, there will be no proper king sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.

The turning point is seen in the phrase, “**Until Shiloh comes**”. The Word “Shiloh” is a Messianic reference, and most scholars believe that it means “**to whom it belongs**”. The scepter – the right to rule, belongs to the tribe of Judah through the line of David. It will remain there until the One comes to Whom it ultimately belongs; namely, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Ezekiel 21:27 (NKJV)**

**27** Overthrown, overthrown, I will make it overthrown! It shall be no longer, **Until He comes whose right it is, And I will give it to Him.**’

When Jesus was born the angel said to Mary...

### **Slide # 12**

#### **Luke 1:31–33 (NKJV)**

**31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

**32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the **Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.**

**33** And **He will reign** over the house of Jacob **forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**”

Jesus is this special “**Son of David**” who will ultimately reign forever from David’s throne. Seventeen verses in the NT either designate or describe Jesus as the “Son of David”. This designation has royal Messiahship with Lordship authority written all over it.

It is thoroughly grounded in the prophetic Scriptures of the OT.

### **Slide # 13**



**Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)**

**6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7** Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, **Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom**, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even **forever**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

It was common knowledge among the Jews that the Messiah would be from the offspring of David.

**Slide # 14****John 7:42 (NKJV)**

**42** Has not the **Scripture** said that the **Christ comes from the seed of David** and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

In calling Jesus "Lord" Who is the "***Son of David***" these blind beggars recognized Jesus as Lord Who is the long awaited royal Messiah Who was to come and bring in the kingdom and sit on David's throne which is exactly what the religious leaders and the people generally refused to acknowledge. As such these blind beggars were acknowledging Christ's kingdom authority!

**31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"**

The multitude had no regard or concern for these social outcasts. They had no mercy. They saw these blind beggars as an embarrassment. And society generally tended to see an ailment like blindness as the result of some personal sin. In John 9 the disciples asked Jesus about the man born blind wanting to know if it was because of his sin or that of his parents.

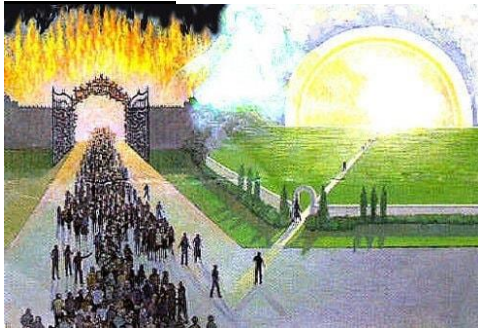
So, the multitude was warning these two beggars that they should keep quiet, but the blind beggars cried out all the more at the top of their voices, "***Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!***" This was their opportunity and they would not be silenced. They didn't care what anyone thought – they wanted the attention of Jesus the kingdom Messiah!

What a picture here: The crowd wants to keep people from Jesus and doesn't care. But those truly looking to Jesus for His help will not be deterred or dissuade.

This reminds me of Luke 16:16 where Jesus said, "... ***the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.***"

The truth of Christ calls for a resolute RESPONSE. To enter in involves a personal application of forcefulness involving a determined commitment which goes contrary to the crowd. Aligning with the truth of Jesus put one against the organized religion of the day which was not easy.

### **Slide # 15**



Jesus said, "narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Mt. 7:14) To enter in involves resolute determination which runs contrary to the crowd and is not for the faint of heart. It involves earnest sincerity that counts the cost. It does not happen through indifference or in a nonchalant manner. This is descriptive of a serious commitment that is sincere and resolute.

### **Slide # 16**

#### **Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)**

**8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."**

### **Slide # 17**

#### **Luke 13:24 (NKJV)**

**24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**

“Strive to enter” means to EARNESTLY SEEK and the point is one better do it before the door of opportunity is shut.

In sharing the gospel with people, I have often asked them what they now want to do with the truth of Christ. If they say, “***I don’t know, or maybe***” that is a clear signal to me that they are not serious. A saving faith commitment is sincere – it wants in – it is sure of it. It is intentional just like these blind beggars. They weren’t saying, “***I am not sure I am interested in Jesus***”. They were all in! They were intense and pressed the issue in spite of the crowd. That is the stuff of genuine faith!

The last invitation of the Bible makes the point...

### **Slide # 18**

#### **Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)**

**17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires**, let him take the water of life freely.

***Ya, gotta wanna!*** And nobody can do it for you! Only those willing to act counter to the powerful influence of the crowd of the world can enter in. Everyone who does this is doing so because of a strong resolute desire.

Saving faith is active and it is intentional! In the gospel of John, the word “***believe***” is always a verb. True faith by its very nature is an ACTIVE reality.

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

- **C. S. Lewis**

I think that is reflected in a saving faith that presses into the truth of Jesus in spite of the world, the flesh, and the devil that seek to keep the person from Christ. A saving faith is serious about Jesus and therefore is a life-changing reality. Those that aren’t serious aren’t saved.

It is noteworthy that earlier in Jesus’ ministry He never really personally used the designation “Son of David” in reference to Himself. In fact, in Matt. 9:27-30 when He healed 2 other blind men who called Him “Son of David” He commanded them to tell no one. The reason Christ kept the lid of the “Son of David” language was apparently because this Messianic designation was very politically charged. The Jews largely thought of the “Son of David” in terms of a political Messiah who would deliver them politically.

Jesus wanted people to see Him for His biblical character and biblical qualifications and not just as a political deliverer. Therefore, He functioned the way He did in letting His life and ministry speak for itself through the lens of the prophetic Scriptures.

But now as the cross is on the horizon, He allows the truth of Who He is as the “Son of David” to come front and center which is seen in the case of these two blind men in reference to this great multitude and then will be on full display in the triumphal entry which was to follow shortly.

**32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”**

Jesus did not deny the validity in summoning Him as “Lord, Son of David”. Rather, He in effect acknowledged the legitimacy of their Lordship/Messianic designation by asking them what they wanted Him to do for them.

Jesus wants people to spell it out – to ask Him specifically.

**Slide # 19**

The Lord gave the blind men a chance to express their need. Often the over-eager soulwinner puts words into the mouth of the one he is bringing to Jesus. It would be far better to ask questions so that the lost one can express both need and faith in his own words.

– ***John Phillips***

I have come to this place in my own ministry. After sharing the gospel I have learned to ask questions like these:

- What do you now believe about Jesus?
- Have you changed your mind about being good enough to go to heaven?
- What now is your understanding of GRACE?
- What would you like to say to Jesus?

As John Phillips says it is best if the person can articulate in their own words both their need and their own faith. We want them to own it and not just repeat words that they may not understand or mean.

### 33 They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”

Note again they address Jesus as LORD believing that His Lordship involved the authority and power to heal their blindness. Healing the blind is virtually unheard of in the annals of history. The man born blind in John 9 said, “Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one born blind.” (Jn. 9:32). This is the stuff of kingdom restoration which only the King could do.

Some time prior to the coming of Yeshua (Jesus), the ancient rabbis separated miracles into two categories. First were those miracles anyone would be able to perform if they were empowered by the Spirit of God to do so. The second category of miracles were called "messianic miracles," which were miracles only the Messiah would be able to perform. – **Arnold Fruchtenbaum**

And refining it further there were three miracles that the Jews believed only the Messiah would be able to do. 1) Only the Messiah would be able to heal a Jewish leper; 2) Only the Messiah would be able to cast a demon out of mute man; and 3) Only the Messiah would be able to heal a man born blind!

But whether born blind or not, healing a blind man was seen as a most unusual and unprecedented miracle. But healing the blind is one of the miracles prophesied in conjunction with the coming kingdom that the Messiah (the Son of David) will usher in.

#### **Slide # 20**

**Isaiah 29:18 (NKJV)**

**18** In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, **And the eyes of the blind shall see** out of obscurity and out of darkness.

**Isaiah 35:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Then **the eyes of the blind shall be opened**, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

**Isaiah 42:7 (NKJV)**

**7 To open blind eyes**, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

When John the Baptist began to question whether Jesus was really the Messiah, Jesus sent this message to him.

**Slide # 21****Matthew 11:4–5 (NKJV)**

**4** Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:

**5 The blind see** and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

These were Messianic credentials in keeping with the OT prophecies related to the coming King and His kingdom. These are miracles of the kingdom that only the coming Messianic King (the Son of David) would bring about in the kingdom restoration.

These blind beggars believed in Jesus as the coming Messiah (the Son of David) Who could perform kingdom miracles because in fact He is Lord.

**34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.**

Often in Jesus’ ministry we see Him moved with compassion (Gk. ***splanchnistheis***; cf. Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34). Compassion is an emotional word and literally means to be moved in one’s bowels. This is where the ancients considered the emotions and feelings to reside. To be moved with compassion means to be moved with deep feelings of care and concern. Compassion cares and moves to help because of deep empathy and sympathy.

This was the last public miracle that Jesus performed! There was no long draw out process. IMMEDIATELY upon Jesus’ touch they received sight. Imagine the first sight in coming out of blindness is to see Jesus! Indescribable!

These healed blind men upon receiving their sight followed Jesus which is indicative of true faith. It is clear from the cross reference of Mark 10:52 that these two healed blind men had true faith because it says there that Jesus said to Bartimaeus, “your faith has made you well” (cf. Lk. 18:43).

Ten thousand new sensations were being recorded in their brains. A new world had opened up before them. They saw themselves, but they followed Jesus. That is what happens when a person has a genuine encounter with God’s beloved Son. – **John Phillips**

What we have here is an illustration of saving faith. These men on the basis of FAITH received physical healing, but that is indicative of a deeper spiritual healing. Not only did these blind men receive physical sight but they had come to have spiritual sight that in faith sees Jesus for WHO He is as Messiah-Lord.

### **Slide # 22**

#### **John 8:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** He who **follows Me** shall not walk in darkness, but **have the light of life.**"

Jesus spelled out the problem in John 3...

### **Slide # 23**

#### **John 3:19–20 (NKJV)**

**19** And **this is the condemnation,** that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light,** because their deeds were evil.

**20** For everyone practicing evil **hates the light and does not come to the light,** lest his deeds should be exposed.

Men in their natural state love darkness rather than light and because of this don't want to come to the light. They hate the light which is Jesus. That is why they howl to high heaven when the light of God's truth shines upon them. They don't like it.

But when people respond to the light of God's conviction as seen in the light of the gospel then God performs a supernatural creation miracle in which the person is born again. This is totally a God-thing.

### **Slide # 24**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (NKJV)**

**3** But even if our gospel is veiled, it is **veiled to those who are perishing,**

**4** whose minds the god of this age has **blinded,** who **do not believe,** lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Here is the problem. The god of this age, the devil has blinded the minds of people in unbelief. But in salvation people come to see the LIGHT of the truth of Jesus as Lord God. This is a supernatural thing in which God miraculously turns on the light in the heart of people.

**Slide # 25**

**2 Corinthians 4:5–6 (NKJV)**

**5** For we do not preach ourselves, but **Christ Jesus the Lord**, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

**6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has **shone in our hearts** to give the **light** of the knowledge of the **glory of God** in the **face of Jesus Christ**.

In seeing the light, we have come to see the truth of Jesus for WHO He is as Lord God. In the face of Jesus, we have seen the glory of God and that forever changes us.

These blind men came to see the truth of Jesus as Messiah Lord and that resulted in both physical and spiritual sight. When we come to see the gospel truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior, we too have spiritual sight. As the old song says, "Once I was blind but now I can see, the light of the world is Jesus!" All true believers have come to see this truth – the truth of Jesus for Who He is as Lord and Savior!

A couple of take aways from the message today.

Number one is Christ's example in serving. Jesus used His great power to heal others not to save Himself. He came to serve – not to be served!

So, you are a believer, and you want a great reward in the kingdom. That is good, but realize that the basis of kingdom rewards relates to humble service in the here and now.

Christ's example of service is reaching out to the lowest of society that no one else cares about. It's about humble service that has compassion and shows mercy. This is indicative of kingdom service – and kingdom greatness.

Serving in this way results in kingdom greatness! It's not about self-promotion but rather about humble lowly service. This is the example of Jesus and the way to great kingdom reward.



Second, let me ask you: Who is Jesus to you? Have you come to see the truth of Who Jesus is as Lord and Savior? That is the ultimate issue for time and eternity. The crowd is meandering on their way to hell but there are a few that respond to the truth of the gospel and come to see the truth. Are you one of them? This is the ultimate issue.

You “old timers” will remember Bill Waters. Bill Waters was my right hand man for many years. He and others started Southview Bible Church. Bill and I went through many battles together in the early days of the church and (humanly speaking) if it wasn't for Bill and Shirley Waters I am convinced there would be no Southview today. Of course, it was all God and all glory to God but He greatly used Bill Waters to that end.

Bill's testimony was this. One night years ago he was invited to hear the evangelists Billy Graham in Omaha. That particular night Billy was preaching on the passage from Mark 10 about blind Bartimaeus. Bill said it was just like he was there with blind Bartimaeus, and Jesus was passing by. Bill realized this was his opportunity. Jesus was passing by and what would he do with Jesus? That night Bill responded in faith and called on the name of the Lord in faith and was born again. Truly, his life was forever changed.

Today Jesus is passing by. The truth of Jesus is before you. What will your response be? The Bible says, “**Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**” (2 Cor. 6:2).

The Bible says, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**” (Acts 16:31). It says, “**whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved**” (Rom. 10:13).

Jesus is passing by – what is your response?