

Vision, Sight, and Insight

Opening text: Mark 10:46-52

This is primarily a passage about vision. Someone who had no vision received vision.

I feel that we need to look at Jesus today and allow His image to grow larger and larger in our lives. I believe that the more we look at the ministry of Jesus, the more we understand the vision and the mission of the church.

Jesus modelled it all for us. Jesus and the church are not separate entities. No. Jesus is the head, and the church is His body. Therefore, Jesus and the church don't follow separate agendas. No. We follow His pattern, we follow the model He set for us.

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude

1. Jesus has a vision for cities

- a) Jesus came to Jericho. He came to a city. He didn't just have another meeting in some non-descriptive part of the desert, but Jesus came to a specific city. Jesus wants to move right across cities.
- b) Like Joshua of old, Jesus also came to conquer Jericho. The gospel is a conquest. There are cities to be conquered for the Lord. Jesus told us to go for cities: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Melbourne...
- c) *46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude...*

No details are given as to what actually happened between the first and second sentences – what happened while in the city. What we see is that when Jesus came out, a great multitude followed Him! The point of any visitation of Jesus is that multitudes may follow Him! The point of Jesus moving through a city are the very souls of that city!

The harvest is plentiful! – more plentiful than ever. The population of the world was about **300 million** at the time of Christ and changed very little in the next thousand years. The population of the world reached one billion in 1804 but rose to about 7.7 billion people today.

Someone mentioned that there are 385 000 people born each day in the world. That means 385000 people more to reach today than yesterday. If all the unreached people in the world were lined up 30 inches apart, that line would encircle the globe, not one time, not two times, not three times but thirty times! That line of unreached souls is growing 20 miles per day.

This is a message about a man who received vision. May the Lord give us vision today – His vision. Vision to see what He sees. May there be an alignment between what He

sees and what we see. Jesus had a vision for cities and multitudes. This passage shows us that He also had vision for individuals:

2. Jesus has a vision for individuals

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

a) He moved through a city, but he also moved in the life of this one man.

This blind man is not a number in the crowd, he is not just an anonymous beggar. No. He has a name: In the Aramaic language his name means “highly prized one” (in spite of his low social status, his inferior condition, being a beggar, and his lack of means, he is valuable to God – he is a highly prized one).

He sat by the roadside begging. He can't be part of the entourage. He doesn't fit in. He doesn't belong in that kind of world where people can be together and walk together. He had to wear a garment that set him apart from everybody else. He was seen as someone defiled and unworthy.

The eyes of Jesus set on this man when He cried out for Him. Jesus came for individuals. He came for those on the wayside too.

Psalms 33:14-15 - *From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth ¹⁵ He fashions their hearts **individually**. He considers all their works.*

b) No one is ever just a number in the crowd. Every person is valued in the eyes of Jesus and He knows us all by name.

In **John 5** we read the story of the man by the pool of Bethesda and it says in **Verse 3** that there was a ‘*great multitude of blind, lame, paralysed, waiting for the moving of the water*’ However in **verse 5** we read, “*Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years*”.

Jesus has a vision for multitudes but never at the exclusion of individuals. Every person, every individual is important to Him.

c) We live in such a self-centred world and there is a huge deficit of genuine compassion and mercy in our society.

We have become desensitised when it comes to human suffering. We need to recover the vision of Jesus for the one in front of us and for mercy.

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

They warned him to be quiet - they wanted to follow Jesus undisturbed by the cry of the needy. They wanted to go with Jesus from place to place, from event to event, from meeting to meeting but didn't want to be troubled. They wanted the blessing but not necessarily the burden of the vision that Jesus (clearly) carried for the lost and hurting.

Luke 9:49b - *“Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.”*

The problem was never about troubling Jesus but often it was His own people who did not want to be troubled.

d) In **verse 49** it says that *Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.*

Jesus commanded. He didn't suggest. The great commission is not the great suggestion. Jesus has commanded us to preach the gospel (Acts 1:2).

3. The vision of a blind man

We have talked about vision today: the vision of Jesus for cities, the vision of Jesus for every individual. I want to end by speaking about what kind of vision this blind man carried. Yes, he carried vision - even before he had sight!

*47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say,
“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth – He identified someone He had already heard about – this was Jesus, but not just any Jesus. This was THE Jesus of Nazareth! The one who went about doing good and healing all the oppressed of the devil for God was with Him. He would have heard about this Jesus of miracles.

Words form pictures. He must have had an internal picture of this Jesus of Nazareth – not just any other Jesus but the One who did miracles!

When you hear His word, your vision of Jesus can only grow.

- The blind man carried a vision of Jesus.
- He also carried a vision of His mercy – *“son of David have mercy on me’*
- He had no *physical sight* but showed great *spiritual insight* when he called Jesus: ‘son of David’. He was the first person in the New Testament to refer to Jesus explicitly as the Messiah.
- He was blind but he had a vision of a new identity in Jesus. Even before his eyes were open, he threw aside the garment that identified him as a beggar, someone defiled, second class citizen. He knew that he was about to become a brand new creature.

Conclusion

Today's message was about seeing, about having vision, and having insight. It is not enough to have our physical eyes open. Jesus told the church of Laodicea in the book of Revelation, *“anoint your eyes with eye salve that you may see”* (Rev.3:18).

It is crucial to see Jesus, see what He sees and make that our vision too. Jesus sees a great harvest, great cities, and multitudes that need to be reached. He also sees individuals, real people with real names, individuals by the wayside. Vision makes you run. May we run in the direction of the vision and mission of the church.