

Church Year Story 13

*Catechism and Memory Verse
from the Congregation at Prayer for the Week*

BIBLE STORY: JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MAN

Luke 18:31-43

Central Thoughts

- Jesus predicted His death and resurrection according to the Scriptures, but the disciples were “blind” to understand and believe it.
- The sinful human heart is “blind” to the truth of the Gospel.
- Only the Word of God can bring a person “to see” and believe that Jesus’ death and resurrection is necessary for our salvation.
- Faith saves because it trusts in the crucified and resurrected Jesus who is merciful to sinners.

Discussion Questions

What did Jesus clearly teach His disciples?

That He must go up to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and be raised to life again according to all that the prophets had written.

How did the disciples receive this word?

They understood none of it. It was hidden from their eyes as if they were blind.

What does the disciples’ inability to believe teach us?

We are all blind to the Gospel unless the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see that it is necessary for our salvation for the Christ to suffer and die for the sins of the world, and to rise again from the dead according to the Scriptures.

What is blindness likened to?

Sin and unbelief

What is sight likened to?

Repentance and faith in Christ

What is the miracle of Jesus’ healing the blind man teach us?

The Lord gives the gift of repentance and faith in Christ. It is the Holy Spirit, through the Word of the Gospel, who must convert the sinner to trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection for salvation.

What caused the blind man to cry out to Jesus?

He heard from the multitude that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

What did the blind man say to Jesus?

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

What did the blind man confess about himself and about Jesus in his prayer for mercy?

That he was a sinner and that Jesus was the Savior of sinners, the Messiah, the Son of David.

How did the multitude show their “blindness” and lack of understanding?

They warned the man to keep quiet.

How did the blind man respond to his rebuke?

He cried out to Jesus even more. His faith in Jesus was undeterred.

What did Jesus do?

He stood still and commanded that the man be brought to Him.

What does this teach us?

Jesus calls sinners to Himself for salvation.

What does the man ask of Jesus?

That He might receive His sight.

How does Jesus’ respond?

“Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.”

Who gave the blind man the gift of sight, faith, mercy, understanding, and salvation?

Jesus

What does it mean: “Your faith has saved you”?

It means, “Your Jesus has saved you” because Jesus, the soon to be crucified and resurrected Lord, was His salvation, the source of his sight, faith, understanding, and salvation.

How did the man and the multitude respond to Jesus’ miracle of faith and salvation?

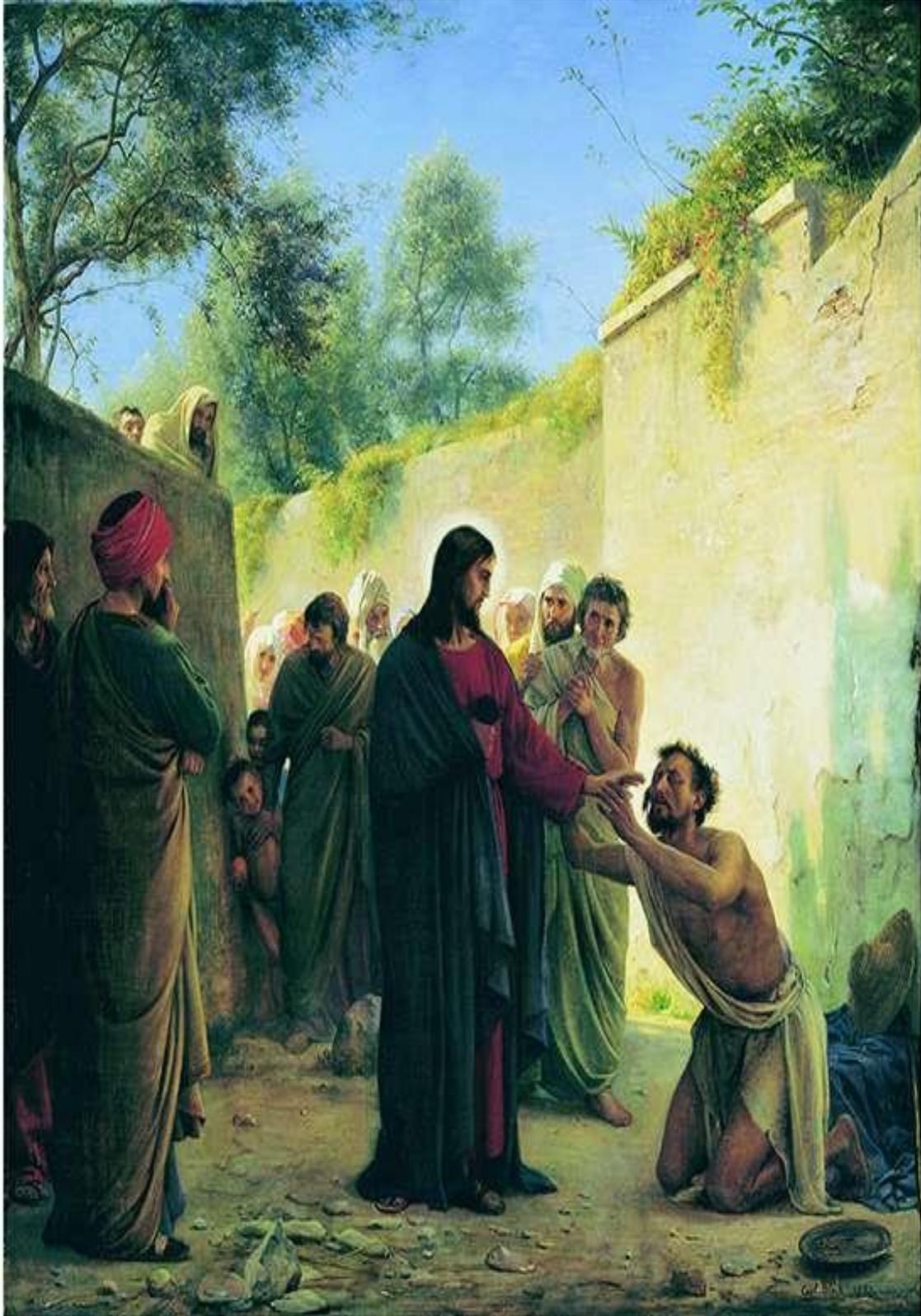
They gave praise to God

Meditation on the Bible Story

The miracle of Jesus restoring sight to a blind man takes place shortly before Jesus went to Jerusalem to die upon the cross. The account begins with Jesus’ prediction, according to the Old Testament Scriptures that He must go up to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and rise from the dead. It was the third time that Jesus had made such a prediction, but the disciples did not understand it and the saying was hidden from their eyes. The image of the blind man is a picture of what the disciples and all sinful humanity is apart from the miracle of faith. We cannot know, believe, or accept Jesus’ death and resurrection by our own reason or strength. Impenitence and unbelief are like blindness. Repentance and faith are like sight. True faith, the faith that the Lord creates in our hearts by His Word and Spirit, enables us to “see” our sin rightly and to “see” that only Jesus’ death and resurrection can save us. He must die for our sins according to the Scriptures. He must rise again the third day according to the Scriptures. Only the miracle of faith can “see” and understand that His death and resurrection are our salvation. Though the blind man could not see with his eyes, by the grace of God he “saw” Jesus for who He really was and believed in Him. The blind man cried out to Jesus in faith for what he needed most: mercy. He confessed both his sin and his Savior. Having heard who Jesus was, he confessed Him to be the “Son of David”—the Christ, the Savior of the world. In asking to receive his sight, the blind man asks for more of what he already has—the gift of faith, mercy, and salvation. In Jesus’ question and the man’s response, we see that Christians are called to pray continually to have their eyes opened so that they might see Jesus ever more clearly for who He is and for what He does for us. “Your faith has saved you” means, “Your Jesus has saved you” because Jesus alone opened His eyes to see. In the end, faith in Christ gives all glory to God.

Prayer on the Bible Story

O Lord Jesus, as you opened the eyes of the blind man to see You clearly and to receive the gift of salvation, so open our eyes to see Your death and resurrection as our only source of mercy and comfort; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.



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