

HEALING OF TWO BLIND MEN

Intro--One of most curious things about story is finding faith in 2 blind men.

Peculiar to Matt. Might conclude this happened ^{not} after raising of Jairus' daughter but can't be sure since Matt groups miracles acc to chronology. Prob lost sight not born blind as Jn 9. Note 3 things about these 2 men.

I. The FAILING in their SIGHT (or Selves), 27.

Blindness common in Middle East. Symbol of sin, 2 Cor 4:4. 2 Pet 1:9. 2 Cor 3:14. Rom 11:25; Eph 4:18. It meant:

- A. Darkness. Col 1:13. Lk 1:79; Rom 2:19, Eph 6:12, 1 Pet 2:9, Jn 3:19
- B. Delusion. Bec must depend on some other senses for light. 1 Cor 2:14. Eccl 2:14
- C. Danger. In this life bec does not know will of God. In eternal life. Mt 25:30.
- D. Despair. Acts 13:11.
- E. Dependence. Acts 26:15-18. We have the message of light and we reflect the light of the world. Acts 4:12

II. The FAITH in their SAVIOR, 27b-29.

- A. The Perception of it. If don't attribute to X's omniscience then surely to cry "Son of David." Tho they had never seen X or any of His miracles yet they believed and it is evident in their address to Son of David. Wouldn't expect this from blind men yet they saw truth Scribes and Pharisees who could look into the Word couldn't see.
- B. The Proclamation of it. Lord draws out from them proclamation of their faith.
- C. The Power of it. They got what they believed they could get. Matt 21:22. Certainly right to emphasize object of faith; yet too to emphasize that faith may grow and increase. Never rebuked in gospels for ~~lack of~~ faith too great; but many times for lack of it. Lk 24:25, Acts 13:39 believe alone enuf for salvation. Try it in Xn life too. Wimpy and contacts. yet not in financial things.

III. The FOLLY in their SERVICE, 30-31.

- A. There was an Order. Tell no one. Hard to know exactly why. Perhaps X saw that men were beginning to be more attracted to self/ ~~tham~~ by miracles than be message. Beware not more attracted bec methods than message. Or perhaps He didn't wish to have movements retarded by crowds that came. Or perhaps He didn't wish to stir up the opposition at this time. Cf Acts 14:15. Sometimes wisdom not to stir up people. Or perhaps there was something in the men which X knew would be better for their spiritual growth if they didn't testify. Might lead them to think X better to them than others if they told it too much. "It is not always wise to encourage a new convert to tell what X has done for him." Taylor. Not a novice.
- B. There was no Obedience. Motive may have been good, but it was disobedience. 1 Sam 15:22. It was not intelligent for it put their intelligence above X's. Real gratitude would have obeyed too. "But to do what X has forbidden bec we think we shall honor him more by breaking than by keeping his injunction, is to put ourselves above him, and do him deep dishonor." Taylor.