

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 38

Lesson 38 – Instructions about Divorce, a Blind Man Healed, Dinner with a Sinner

Background:

In this lesson, we will look at passages from the three [synoptic gospels](#). Jesus gives specific teaching about divorce which was a hot topic in the 1st century as well as today. We also see Jesus heal a blind man called Bartimaeus and surprisingly have a meal with a tax collector called Zaccheaus.

Scripture Passage:

Read: [Matthew 19:1-15](#); [Luke 18:35-43](#); [Luke 19:1-10](#)

Read the Following Quote:

“When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was walking by, He called out “Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me!” (Luke 18:38). Struggling to his feet and slowly feeling his way toward the visiting rabbi, Bartimaeus felt warm hands on his weathered face. And the next thing he knew, he was keeled. Seeing the eyes of Jesus and the smile that creased His bearded face was not only the first thing Bartimaeus ever saw. It would forever be the most beautiful thing he ever saw.” [Greg Asimakoupoulos](#)

Questions:

Why do you think the blind man called out to Jesus? What is the relationship between physical blindness and spiritual blindness? How do you think you will feel when you see Jesus for the first time?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Matthew 19:1-15](#).

Divorce and Welcoming Children

1. Where did Jesus teach about divorce? Who was there? What was the question the Pharisees asked? Why do you think this was an important question? Is it still important today?

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2. Read the command that Moses gave in [Deuteronomy 24:1-4](#). Some Jewish Law experts believe that this meant a man could only divorce his wife if she was unfaithful. Others thought that this meant they could divorce a wife for any reason at all. Describe Jesus' answer to the Pharisees in your own words. What do you think Jesus seems to be saying about marriage? (Verses 4-7)

3. In verse 8, what reason does Jesus give for the Mosaic (Moses) Law? What is Jesus saying about our hearts? Do you agree with the disciples opinion in verse 9?

4. Some writers think that the Jewish leaders only thought about marriage as a social law. Jesus seems to think of it as a divine law. How might this difference affect our thinking about marriage and divorce laws today?

The Healing of a Blind Man [Luke 18:35-43](#)

5. What city was Jesus approaching? Who was there and what was he doing? Contrast the life of a blind person in the 1st century with a blind person today.

6. Read the version from [Mark 10:46-52](#). What was the blind man's name? What did the people tell Bartimaeus and what did he do about it? Break down what Bartimaeus says – what exactly does he call Jesus and what does he ask of Jesus?

7. How did the crowd respond? How do we respond to people with disabilities today? How can we be kinder and more understanding?

8. Did Bartimaeus give up when the crowd told him to be quiet? Why do you think Bartimaeus was so persistent? How did Jesus respond? What does it tell you about how Jesus might respond to persistent prayer?

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9. Think about the short conversation Jesus had with Bartimaeus. What does Jesus question tell you about how He views people? Do you think Bartimaeus was too bold in asking Jesus for healing? Why do you think Jesus healed this man?

10. Think about the interaction between Jesus and Bartimaeus. How does it help us decide what we can we ask Jesus for today? How did the crowd respond when Jesus healed Bartimaeus? How might those in our circle respond if we told them about what Jesus was doing in our life today?

Zacchaeus The Tax Collector [Luke 19:1-10](#)

1. After meeting with Bartimaeus, what did Jesus do next? Who did He meet inside the city? Describe this man and what he did.

2. What does Jesus say to Zacchaeus? Does this seem normal? What are the social norms about invitations in your home country? Why do you think Jesus took the initiative?

3. What were the people in the crowd upset about? Would you eat a meal with "a sinner"? What does it tell us about Jesus?

4. Jesus indicates that "salvation" has arrived at the house? Who was saved? Why? Is there anything in Zacchaeus's actions that would make you think he was worthy of salvation? Do you see any repentance here? How can we repent?

Suggested Prayer:

Lord, teach us to be like Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus, people who believed that Jesus could change their lives. We thank you that Jesus finds time for poor, blind beggars, and rich, deceitful sinners. Help us to be less judgemental and more like Jesus.

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For Further Reading:

[Who Was Zaccheus in the Bible?](#)

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