

The Death of Christ for the Sight of the Lost

Luke 18:31–43

Main Point

God is glorified when Jesus gives sight to the blind. *So, look to Jesus for mercy.*

I. Jesus' *mission* was to be a substitutionary sacrifice. (18:31–34)

- A. Jesus took the time to interact with his disciples and specifically tell them about his *mission*.
 - 1. His mission was foretold in the Old Testament (e.g., Isa. 53; Luke 24:27).
 - 2. His mission was to suffer and die as a substitutionary sacrifice (Luke 24:25–26).
 - 3. His vindication was his resurrection from the dead (1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Cor. 15:12ff).
- B. The disciples did not understand the significance of what Christ told them because it was *hidden*.
 - 1. Often the statements which Jesus made before people were misunderstood and rejected (e.g., John 6:35–45). Only those with the eyes of faith will see and embrace the truth.
 - 2. The Lord takes the foolishness of the message of the gospel to transform hearts of stone (1 Cor. 1:18–21) and give sight to the spiritually blind (2 Cor. 4:3–6).

II. Jesus' *mercy* is for those who seek it on the basis of his sacrifice. (18:35–43)

- A. The Blind Man
 - 1. Likely a man named Bartimaeus (cf. Mark 10:46; Matthew records that there were two men [Matt. 20:29]) who were begging on the outskirts of residential Jericho (there were two “Jerichos” —a residential Jericho, and another municipal Jericho; both were roughly 2 miles apart).
 - 2. The blind man persistently appealed to the mercy of Christ because he could do nothing to fix his circumstances (cf. Luke 18:13).
- B. The Merciful Savior
 - 1. Jesus is compassionate and cares for the plight of his fallen creatures (Matt. 9:36; Rom. 9:15).
 - 2. Jesus will save those who call out to him in faith (Rom. 10:9–13; Eph. 2:8–9).
 - 3. God is glorified when those who are blind receive sight (18:43; cf. John 9:1–3; Eph. 1:5–6).