

Study Guide



Matthew 20: 29-34 - Two Blind Men

May 20, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

Memorize 2 Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Calendar

May 28th- June 1st — Camp in the City
June 11th-16th — Youth Camp
June 24th — Community Group and Service Team sign up begins
June 24th-28th — Camp Electric

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Son of David](#)":

The blind won't gain their sight
By opening their eyes

A king is coming
To His city and crowds surround
Are following
If I could see, I would follow too

He heals the sick with His hands
As He walks by, they reach for Him;
If I could see, I would reach out too

The blind won't gain their sight
By opening their eyes

Son of David, Have mercy on me!
Son of David, Have mercy on me!
Son of David, I want to see!
Son of David, have mercy!

I cannot leave this gate
Since I cannot see my way
But I can stand and call His name

No I could never leave this gate
But I will stand and shout his name
And I will count on His grace

Son of David, have mercy on me
Son of David, have mercy on me!
Son of David, I want to see
Son of David, have mercy!

I was blind
Now I see
Jesus saved me!

Word (45 Minutes)

Commentary: Read Matthew 20:29-34

So far in Matthew 19 and 20 we have seen a story of children who in their humility could see Jesus and a rich man who in his riches could not see Jesus. We've also observed disciples who in their pride were struggling to see the love of Christ. These stories are capped off at the end of chapter 20 with a story of two blind men who, based upon confession of faith in Jesus, the Son of David, were brought from darkness to light, was blind but now can see.

For those in need of Jesus' help (which is all of us), the application of this story is simple: boldly confess your need for His mercy. Throw aside your pride and say, maybe for the first time in your life, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me." That was the cry of the blind men, for they knew that they could not open their own eyes. They were fully dependent on Jesus' power and kindness. Even if you're already a Christian, the same truth applies: Daily confess your need for Christ's mercy. Trust Him to serve you.

As we boldly confess our need for God's mercy, we also need to humbly believe in His power to do the miraculous. We must trust God to do what only He can do. When Jesus asked these two men what they wanted done for them, they responded in verse 33 by saying, "Open our eyes!" They were trusting in the sovereign power of Jesus to cure their blindness. We are reminded one last time in this section that the entirety of the Christian life is based on divine mercy, not human merit.

Discussion - Read Matthew 20:29-34

1. What were some take aways from the sermon? What convicted you? What stood out to you? Explain.
2. We see in verse 29 that a great crowd was following Jesus as they left Jericho. We can also determine that Jesus (and the crowd) were going up to Jerusalem for the annual Passover celebration (Matthew 21:1). What did the two blind men yell out to Jesus when he and the crowd passed by?
3. The blind men called Jesus "the Son of David" twice as they called out to him to get his attention. What is the significance of Jesus being called "the Son of David"? Look at 2 Samuel 7:11b-17 and Matthew 1:1. According to the ancient prophecies who was to be called "the Son of David" and for what reason?

4. What was the attitude of the crowd toward the two blind men calling out for Jesus' attention? Why do you think the crowd had that kind of attitude toward the two blind men?

5. What did the blind men do when the crowd attempted to silence them? Why didn't they listen to the crowd trying to stop them?

6. What did Jesus ask the men when he stopped to talk to them? Up to this point in the story were the men very specific regarding what they wanted from Jesus? Now what specifically did they request from Jesus?

7. Looking at verses 33-34 can you see a spiritual meaning in addition to a physical meaning of opening their eyes? What do you think is the connection between their receiving their sight and becoming followers of Jesus?

8. If Jesus asked you the question, "What do you want me to do for you?" How would you respond? Would you respond out of pride? Would you request power, possessions, or prestige?

9. Please read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 and think about and discuss God opening your eyes that were blinded by the god of this world.

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

May 22nd — Hub Family Missions
June — Serve Shreveport
July — Community Outreach