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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH**

**BE IT UNTO YOU**

**MATTHEW 9:27-37**

***Matthew 9:27 "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, [Thou] son of David, have mercy on us."***

At this point, Jesus had just healed the incurably sick woman of the issue of blood and had raised the young girl from the dead. The story of these two miracles had spread throughout the land. No wonder these two blind men followed Him. Here, again, was another impossible situation. These men believed that Jesus was their only help. The two blind men started tailing Jesus, shouting, Have mercy on us, Son of David! The prophet Isaiah had much to say about the Messiah, God’s Servant, the King who was to come. These men, recognizing Jesus as the Messiah, knew what Jesus could do.

***Isaiah 42:7 “To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”***

***Isaiah 53:5 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”***

***Matthew 9:28-31***

***28 "And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord."***

***29 "Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you."***

***30 "And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See [that] no man know [it]."***

***31 "But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country."***

Before he healed them, Jesus asked the men if they believed he could do it. It’s not enough to have faith: that faith must be declared publicly. When they confessed their faith in his power, he healed them and warned them not to tell anyone. Nevertheless, they spread the news. Jesus (in nearly every instance), when He healed someone, would say your faith has made you whole (or something very near to that statement). It seems that our faith in something happening has a great deal to do with it coming to pass. Jesus asked them, "believe ye that I am able to do this?" Then He healed them. Faith is one thing that pleases God. The Scripture says that without faith, it is impossible to please God. What is faith?

***Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."***

You see if you could see the evidence, it would be fact, not faith. Some ministers will tell you to shut your eyes and see your prayer request happening in your mind. That is not really what faith is. Faith is when we pray, and ask God for something, and then trust God with all the details, never doubting in our hearts that God is able to do more than we can ask or think. These two blind men had that kind of faith. They came to Jesus, believing that He would restore their sight, and He did. They did not follow His instructions not to tell anyone. If they were blind, and could suddenly see, there would be no way to keep them from telling the good news. There is another way to look at this, also. Before a person is saved, they are spiritually blind. When they seek out the Lord Jesus, it is faith that opens their eyes. A new Christian is just like these blind men. There is no way not to tell the good news. Once I, too, was blind, but now I see.

***Matthew 9:32-34***

***32 "As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil."***

***33 "And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel."***

***34 "But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils."***

A demon-possessed man who was unable to speak was brought to Jesus. When the Lord drove out the demon, the man who had been mute could speak. This person had been possessed of a devil. The devil spirit inside him, would not let him speak. When a devil spirit controls a person, he is totally under the control of the evil spirit. This man was helpless, until Jesus came along and freed him. These spirits of demons, or devils, are under Jesus. When He commands them to go they must obey. What a glorious thing to see anyone delivered from a devil spirit, but to see one who was dumb released to speak, was even more glorious. The multitudes realized this was no ordinary happening. Jesus had supernatural power. Just as many churches today proclaim casting out devils is not of God, so did the religion of that day. Churches have a tendency to believe that anything not active in their particular church is not of God; even though it is prominent in the Bible. The Pharisees, though, claimed Jesus was operating under Satan’s authority. This wasn’t the last time they would make this accusation. The next time, Jesus would respond.

***Matthew 12:22-32***

***22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.***

***23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?***

***24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.***

***25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:***

***26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?***

***27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.***

***28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.***

***29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.***

***30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.***

***31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.***

***32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.***

***Matthew 9:35 "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."***

As he did earlier (4:23), Matthew emphasizes Jesus’s ministry of teaching, preaching, healing throughout the towns. Jesus was many things to many people. He taught, preached, and healed everywhere He went. Even the Jewish people agreed that He was a great teacher, a great preacher-prophet, and a great healer. These were just manifestations of who He really is (God manifest in the flesh). These Scriptures above said He healed all. It is, interesting, to me that sickness and disease were spoken of separately. Sickness is like a case of the flu, or something like a short time virus, But diseases are like Multiple Sclerosis, or some other terminal disease like cancer. At any rate, He healed them all. He brought the good news (gospel) to everyone, so they might be saved. He not only brought salvation, He is salvation.

***Matthew 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."***

Jesus, looking at the multitude, saw individuals who were lost. They had no direction in their lives. Jesus had deep sympathy for the spiritual condition of the people. They had no spiritual guidance. They were sheep without a shepherd. There was a need for spiritual workers. They were weary of this world, with no solution. They had no one to lead them. Jesus felt love for them. He would become their Shepherd, who would lead them to green pastures. He would be their Leader.

***Matthew 9:37 "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly [is] plenteous, but the labourers [are] few;"***

***Matthew 9:38 "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."***

The Scripture above reminds me of the song about the harvest. Some of the words are: My house is full, but my fields are empty. Who will go and work for me today? It seems all my children want to sit around my table. No one wants to work in my field. The harvest is really the end of the world. While the harvest of souls was abundant, few workers were available to do anything about it. Therefore, he called his disciples—including us—to pray for the recruitment of kingdom-minded workers.” We, laborer’s, must hurry to reap the wheat. Many believe, as I do, that the Lord Jesus will be coming back soon and will take the wheat (Christians) to the great barn in the sky. Ministers, of the Word must work for time is drawing very short to work. Those trying to get into the family of God must come soon or be left behind. The 13th chapter of Matthew talks about the seed that is planted by the Son of man. It tells of how it grows up with the tares until harvest time. The seed is planted, then someone comes in and waters it, but God gets the increase. The wheat that grows is symbolic of the Christians. Some plant the Word, someone else comes along and strengthens it, then after all is said and done that Christian belongs to Jesus. He grows in the midst of the world filled with evil people (the tares), but then at harvest time, Jesus comes to receive His own. The tares are gathered and burned. The wheat (Christians) are carried away to heaven to be with Jesus. There is little time left to get the Word out. Everyone who can speak at all of Jesus, need to be about the Father's business. Work for the night is coming, when man's work is done.

***Matthew 13:43 "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What name did the blind man call Jesus?
2. What did Jesus ask the two blind men?
3. When Jesus healed, what did He tell them that helped them to be healed?
4. What is the one thing that pleases God?
5. If you can see evidence, what is it?
6. What was really wrong with the dumb man?
7. What did the multitude say, when the dumb spake?
8. What did the Pharisees say about Jesus when the dumb spake?
9. Name three things that Jesus did in the cities and villages.
10. What is the difference between sickness and disease?
11. When Jesus saw the multitude, how did it affect him?
12. What was Jesus asking for in verse 37?
13. What is the harvest, really?
14. Who was the wheat symbolic of?
15. Who are the tares?
16. What happened to the tares at the end?
17. In Matthew 13:43, the righteous shall shine forth as what?