

## **A Blind Beggar in Jericho**

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1 - 6 and Luke 18:35 – 43

6/13/21

Today let us start out talking about comets. A comet is a cluster of dirty ice particles tightly packed together. A comet is sort of like a dirty snow ball in outer space! There are many famous comets in outer space that travel throughout space. Many of them have orbits they follow as they travel throughout space.

The most famous comet is Haley's Comet which when it passed last time near the earth, there were some people who believed it was a sign of the end time. Do you remember that time not long ago?

Do you know what happens to a comet when it comes closer to the sun? The ice melts and the particles of the comet begin to break apart. This even happens when a comet enters the earth's atmosphere. A comet will melt and fall apart into much smaller particles. The earth has had comets hit its surface that were very large, in fact, many believe the dinosaurs were killed when a large comet hit the earth and caused a massive dust cloud to be formed which caused a drastic temperature change.

A comet often will have a tail, that is the particles beginning to break apart and the light from the sun reflects off the particles. This cluster of particles forms the comet's tail.

The comet changes as it comes near the sun.

When we get to know Jesus, we are sort of like comets. We change when Jesus comes into our lives. We begin to show Jesus' love to others. When we come close to the Son (spell it), our hearts melt and we begin to break apart in love and service of Jesus Christ.

Our comet's tail is formed and the light of Christ reflects through us for others to see and follow. We change as we come near the Son (spell it)!

A relationship with Jesus does not keep bad things from happening to us, but he can help us through difficult times. When we get closer to the Son (spell it), we are like a comet.

Our hearts will melt with compassion. The love we have for others will fly out from us and form a tail of our love for them. This tail will shed light from the Son (spell it) and it will reflect out from us. We will be changed!

In our first scripture reading from Hebrews 11:1 – 6 we have these words - *Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

Historians say the Atomic Age began on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945 when the first nuclear weapon was detonated in a remote desert of New Mexico. But a Greek philosopher in 400 BC was exploring the existence and power of the atom long before the invention of anything that could even see these tiny building blocks of the universe. The Greek philosopher comprehended more than he could see and atomic theory was the result!

The essence of faith is embracing what cannot be seen! Listen again to Hebrews 11:1 - *Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

This is not the result of wishful thinking or positive thinking. It is confidence in the God we cannot see but whose existence is the truest reality in the universe. God's reality is displayed in his creative works and made visible by revealing his invisible character and ways in his Son, Jesus Christ, who came to show the Father's love to us.

We live by faith, not by sight! Yet we do not walk alone, the unseen God walks with us every step of the way!

In a world where seeing is believing, we do struggle to live by faith in God. We struggle in many ways! The strength our faith needs is to rest fully in God's presence during times of prayer. So my friends, in what areas do you need strength and need rest? Takes those things to God in prayer!

In our second scripture passage today from the Gospel of Luke, we have Jesus on his way to Jericho. What happens in Jericho?

Jesus meets a blind beggar who was sitting by the road. When Jesus came by, the blind beggar asked Jesus to give him his sight. The blind man says - 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' The people around the blind beggar tell him to be quiet and they rebuked him. The blind man shouts out louder, saying - 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'

Jesus stops hearing his cries and he orders the blind man to be brought to him. When he is brought near Jesus, he ask him what he wants Jesus to do for him. The man responds in a clear voice - 'Lord, I want to see!'

Jesus quickly tells the blind man - '*Receive your sight, your faith has healed you!*' Immediately the man receives his sight and follows Jesus praising God.

All the people around Jesus see this and they begin to praise God also!

Jesus changed another life, the life of the blind beggar. Jesus probably changed the lives of all the people around him that day because they had witnessed a miracle.

We are changed too whenever we believe that Jesus is the Son of God. It seems that whenever Jesus shows up, lives are changed! It seems that whenever Jesus shows up, lives are changed! It seems that whenever Jesus shows up, lives are changed!

I am going to read a very short statement, and your response to each statement is – **Praise God!** Let us begin:

Our God is wonderful! **Praise God!** Our God is incredible! **Praise God!** Our God is amazing! **Praise God!** Our God is magnificent! **Praise God!** Our God is awesome! **Praise God!**

Let us pray:

Father, sometimes it is a struggle to believe in what we cannot see. Nevertheless, You have promised your faithful love and that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to rest in that promise.

Let us go forth into this new week praising God with a thankful heart. Praise God in recognition of all that God has made. Praise God for the new life given to each of us because if we were blind, now we do see! AMEN.