

# Harmony of the Gospels

# Healing of blind Bartimaeus and his companion Matthew 20:29-34; **Mark 10:46-52**; Luke 18:35-43

- Matthew speaks of two men but Mark and Luke focus on one of them. Mark names the one as Bartimaeus. This may indicate that he was known in the community of believers at the time of the writing of Mark's Gospel.
- A blind man sitting along such a busy thoroughfare would have heard of Jesus. One thing that would have piqued his interest was the events where Jesus had healed the blind.
- He inquired about the approaching crowd and learned that Jesus was passing by.
- He was not about to miss this opportunity and could not be dissuaded by those who would try to silence him.

# Healing of blind Bartimaeus and his companion Matthew 20:29-34; **Mark 10:46-52**; Luke 18:35-43

- His act of jumping up and throwing his cloak aside is a strong indication he expected to be able to easily find them after he had received his sight.
- The interchange with Jesus reveals that although our needs are obvious to God He still desires that we come and express our needs to Him.
- The man was not only healed but followed Jesus.
- The historical context of this passage is important. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. There He would be crucified. He would never again pass through Jericho in His earthly ministry. This was the only chance Bartimaeus would ever have to encounter Jesus.

# Salvation of Zaccheus Luke 19:1-10

- Notice that Zaccheus, like many people, had achieved great success in his field but realized an emptiness he perhaps hoped Jesus would address.
- He doubtless had also heard stories about Jesus, particularly how He did not shun those that the other religious leaders would brand as “sinners”.
- Zaccheus’ greatest hopes were realized as Jesus stopped to address him and then greatly exceeded as Jesus tells him that He will stay in Zaccheus house that day.
- This brought the expected reaction from the people in the crowd.
- However, Jesus, as always rather than being defiled by the contact with sinners brought cleansing through His forgiveness.

# Salvation of Zaccheus Luke 19:1-10

- Zaccheus reveals a repentant heart as he expresses acts that give evidence of repentance. Matthew 3:8-9; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Revelation 2:5
- Principle of restoration. Leviticus 6:4-5
- Jesus states that Zaccheus stands with Abraham as one who “believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6 (ESV) )
- Jesus today through the ministry of the Holy Spirit is still carrying out that mission to seek and save the lost. We do well to recognize the centrality of that work.

# Parable to teach responsibility while the kingdom is delayed Luke 19:11-28

- We are now just over a week away from the crucifixion. The crowds have embraced that Jesus is the Messiah but still have their own ideas about what this means. For them Jesus' approach to Jerusalem in spite of the order of His arrest by the Council can only mean that the final showdown is going to take place to establish the Messianic rule over Israel.
- The parable gives the tale of a present ruler who leaves for a time to secure his kingdom and comes back to assume his kingdom.
- This scenario complete with the delegation opposing him occurred less than 30 years before this when Archelaus, one of the sons of Herod the Great, went to Rome to contest Herod's will and receive a part of his kingdom.

# Parable to teach responsibility while the kingdom is delayed Luke 19:11-28

- Key points of the story
  - The presence of the ruler with an extended absence and then return to reign over his kingdom. This parallels the presence of Jesus, the time in which we are living now and the anticipation of His return to establish His kingdom.
  - The stewardship of the kingdom given to the kingdom citizens until the return. Jesus would entrust the gospel with His followers and hold us accountable for our faithfulness.
  - The judgment on those who reject the king. There will be that final judgment for all who reject Jesus Christ.