



February 20, 2022

“I Need a Miracle”

[Luke 18:35-43](#)

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Is there a desperate cry of your heart for something that would require a miracle from God, maybe for your health, your marriage, a prodigal child, or deliverance from an addiction? Whatever the need, we serve a miracle-working God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. In today’s study from Luke 18, Pastor Gary shared the miraculous story of how a blind man named Bartimaeus received his sight from the Lord. In his desperation he cried out to Jesus when Jesus was passing by Jericho on His way to Jerusalem. If Jesus were passing by you today, what would be the one thing for which you desperately need a miracle? What is the one thing that you would ask Him for?

1. A blind man receives his sight
 - a. [Luke 18:35-43](#) – *“Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, that I may receive my sight.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.”*
 - b. Pastor Gary said, “Luke [did] not tell us the name of the blind guy. ... When Mark [told] the story in Mark chapter ten, he [told] us his name. His name [was] Bartimaeus. ... [Bartimaeus]’ very survival depended on begging ... and so here he [was], sitting along the roadside of Jericho, ... begging for people to give him money or to give him a cup of water or to give him food or to

give him clothing. If that was your condition in the day, you were completely dependent upon the generosity of other people. ... Bartimaeus ... positioned himself at a place where [there was] a lot of foot traffic. He [heard] a multitude passing by. Now he [didn't] know what all the commotion [was], but he [heard] it. ... Here's what [he was] told, 'Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.' ... Bartimaeus [cried] out for him, but ... he [did] not refer to him as 'Jesus of Nazareth.' He [cried] out to him, referring to him as 'Jesus, Son of David.' ... 'Jesus of Nazareth' ... [told] us who he was and where he grew up, but 'Jesus, Son of David' ... was a Messianic title. In our Old Testament, the Jewish Scripture prophesied that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David, and Jesus could lay claim to his being a descendant of David through both his adoptive dad, Joseph, and his biological mom, Mary. ... If you look at the biological, genealogical records of Jesus in Luke 3 and in Matthew 1, it [told] us that Joseph ... was a descendant of King David through David's son Solomon, and that Mary ... was a descendant of King David through David's son, Nathan, so that between the two, Jesus is fully the son of David both legally and biologically. ... When Bartimaeus [ascribed] to him a Messianic title, what [he was] saying ... is that he [recognized] Jesus as not just from Nazareth, but from God. This [was] the Messiah. This [was] God in flesh. ... [It was] not just Jesus of Nazareth. He [was] Jesus, Son of David because he [was] the Messiah."

2. The example of Bartimaeus

- a. He believed that Jesus [was] a miracle-working God
 - i. Pastor Gary said, "If we need a miracle from the Lord, then we need to understand who [God] really is. ... A true miracle is divine intervention. It's when something happens that cannot be explained by human ingenuity or natural means but can only be attributed to the divine intervention of God. ... If you believe that Jesus was just Jesus of Nazareth, then you think [he was] just another historical person along the lines of Buddha and Confucius and Muhammad ... then you're likely to receive the kind of miracle that those guys produced, which is zero. ... None of them did any miracles. The followers of Muhammad, about 150 to 200 years later, came up with some miracles that they said that he did, but in the Koran, it mentions that Muhammad did zero miracles, but in the same Koran, it mentions that Jesus did several. ... If you just want to look at Jesus as this historical figure, and you put him on par with other historical figures, then you're not likely to get the kind of miracle that you desperately need. It's only when we see him and know him as ... still the miracle-working God. He is the Son of David, the Son of God, the Messiah. ... This is Jesus."
- b. He appealed to the mercy of God

- i. Pastor Gary said, “[Bartimaeus] appealed to the mercy of God. ... Mercy simply means compassion for those who are suffering, and God is full of that.”
 1. [Psalm 86:15](#) – *“But you, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.”*
 2. [Psalm 118:29](#) – *“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”*
- ii. Pastor Gary said, “He’s a merciful God. He is touched by our infirmities. He is acquainted with our sorrows. He understands our grief. He knows our needs, and ... he has mercy for us, and when he decides to do a miraculous thing for us, ... it is not based on the merit of the person. It is based on the mercy of God. ... It’s on that basis that [Bartimaeus] appeals to the mercy of God. When you need a miracle from God, you need to have a right view of God. If you are mad at God for your circumstance or you blame God for your circumstance or you think that God doesn’t care that you’re in your circumstance, you’re not believing that God is a merciful God. You are believing that God is a detached God, that he’s an uncaring God, that he’s an insensitive God, and so then, why should you expect to get a miracle from that God? We need to see him as a merciful God, despite our circumstances.”
- c. He dismissed the voices of doubt
 - i. Pastor Gary said, “At the end of verse thirty-nine it says, ‘But he cried out all the more.’ ... Why did he have to cry out ‘all the more?’ Why the second time?”
 1. [Luke 18:39a](#) – *“Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet.”*
 - ii. Pastor Gary said, “The people in the crowd doubted that [Bartimaeus] could really get the miracle that he desperately needed ... or they doubted that Jesus was able to deliver the miracle. ... [In] either case, there were doubters in the crowd, and I love ... that [Bartimaeus] didn’t adhere to their caution about being quiet. ... He dismissed the voices of doubt. ... There will be some people in your life who will not encourage you, ... so when the doubters come around you to discourage you, dismiss them. Cry out even louder to Jesus because they don’t live in your desperate shoes; you do. ... You say, ‘Thank you very much, but I’m going to still cry out to my God because I’m desperate enough to seek him for what I need.’ ... You believe God for what he can do for you.”
 - iii. Pastor Gary said, “Sometimes the voices of doubt are not simply from the crowd without, but sometimes from our mind within. ... ‘You’re not going to get that. You don’t deserve that. Who do you think you are even asking for that? You’ve been down this road before one hundred

times. Why are you asking again? Stop asking.' ... We have to take to heart 2 Corinthians 10:5."

1. **2 Corinthians 10:5** - *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ."* (1984 NIV)

- iv. Pastor Gary said, "Sometimes we just have to renounce ... thoughts of doubt and fear that come into our own minds. ... When you start to feel discouraged, or there are people [discouraging you], or your own self-talk is discouraging you, ... that's the time when you should cry out even more to Jesus."

d. He exercised faith in God

- i. Pastor Gary said, "Faith can be a tricky thing because faith is not ... chanting something over and over and over again in [the] hopes that by chanting it, you can make it come to pass. ... That's faith in faith. Faith is to be faith in God, that he is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond what you could ever ask or imagine. That's Ephesians 3:20. It's having faith that God is great and magnificent and all powerful, and that he can do whatever he wants whenever he wants, so my faith is in God's ability, and then I rest in his results."

1. **Romans 8:28** - *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*

- ii. Pastor Gary said, "There are certain miracles that you might need or answers to prayer that you have [and] that you're asking God for that you can't see yet, and if you could see it, then you wouldn't need faith."

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

- iii. Pastor Gary said, "I love the way that Jesus in this story [invited] Bartimaeus to be specific. God wants us to be specific. ... He [asked] Bartimaeus to give Bartimaeus the opportunity to be specific with his request, ... 'What do you want me to do for you?' ... [Bartimaeus] said in verse forty-one, 'I want to receive my sight,' and oh, what a glorious day this was for him because verse forty-three says, 'And immediately he received his sight.'"

e. He gave God all the glory

- i. Pastor Gary said, "[Bartimaeus] was careful to give glory to where glory was due and to give honor where honor was due."

1. **1 Chronicles 16:29a** - *"Give to the Lord the glory due His name."*

2. **Psalms 115:1** - *"Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."* (1984 NIV)

- ii. Pastor Gary said, "When God does a miracle in your life, be the one

who gives him thanks and glory and make it public. Make it known what God has done. ... The greatest miracle that God could possibly give you and do for you is the miracle of salvation; that if you know Christ as your Lord and Savior, if you've accepted Jesus, that transforming work that God does in your heart and life to change you from who you were to who you are in him, growing even ever more – that's the greatest miracle ever. ... We're all beneficiaries of the miraculous hand of God, but it's important to understand that when God does what he does – our salvation, or some specific thing, [or] an answer to prayer ... make sure you give him the glory. ... It will cause other people to give glory to God because that's the way this story ends ... *'And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.'* Your testimony of God's miraculous touch in your life will help people to see the Lord, and they'll give praise to him too."

3. A miracle-working God

- a. Pastor Gary said, "He's still a miracle-working God. The Bible says he's the same yesterday, today and forever, and the Bible also says in James, "We have not because we ask not." So, we need to ask him, and we need to be specific, and then we need to trust him. ... In 1868, one of the most prolific hymn writers by the name of Fanny Crosby wrote an old hymn of our faith that was called 'Pass Me, Not O Gentle Savior,' and it was a song, a hymn written about this very story ... from Luke 18."

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Refrain:
Savior, Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Let me at a throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
Help my unbelief. [Refrain]

Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by Thy grace. [Refrain]

Thou the Spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me,

Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in heav'n but Thee? [Refrain]ⁱ

- b. Pastor Gary said, “Fanny Crosby was herself blind when she wrote that song. She understood a desperate condition. God understands yours, too. Why don’t we ask him today not to pass us by? Why don’t we cry out for the miracle that we need?”

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Luke 18:35-43](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Why was it significant that Bartimaeus called Jesus “Son of David?” (See #1b above)
3. What is the importance of recognizing Jesus as a “miracle-working God?” (See #2a above)
4. Read [Psalm 86:15](#) and [Psalm 118:29](#). How does God view our sufferings? (See #2b-i and #2b-ii above)
5. Read [2 Corinthians 10:5](#). How should we respond to voices of doubt, both from others and within our own minds? (See #2c above)
6. What is the difference between “faith in faith” and faith in God? (See #2d-i above)
7. God wants us to be _____ in our prayers. (See #2d-iii above)
8. Read [1 Chronicles 16:29a](#) and [Psalm 115:1](#). What happens when we give God the glory due his name? (See #2e-ii above)
9. What miracle is on your heart to ask from God?
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)

ⁱ https://hymnary.org/text/pass_me_not_o_gentle_savior