

Faith's Inception, Progression, Perfection

Matthew 9:27-31

Halifax: 20 February 2005

Introduction

In Matthew 8-9, Matthew has put together a glorious panoply of the wondrous works of mercy that Jesus Christ performed in the early days of His ministry.

- Here His kind heart is displayed for us!
 - We have seen Him cleanse the defiled leper,
 - restore the paralysed gentile servant
 - raise up Peter's mother in law from her life-threatening fever.
 - We have seen Him calm the raging wind and sea with a mere word,
 - cast out a legion of demons,
 - forgive the sins of a paralytic with all authority and heal him.
 - And last week, we saw Him restore a poor woman who suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years,
 - and then raise from death the young daughter or the ruler of the synagogue...
 - And now today we read how He restored sight to two blind men.
 - There is none so kind and gracious as the Lord Jesus!
 - I hope you have come to see His loving heart through these wonderful passages.

Everything that is revealed about the Lord Jesus in these pages is designed to lead you to joyfully trust in Him.

- Too often we are like the poor injured bird that looks in terror when you come to nurse it to health...
 - We gaze with terror upon our Lord Jesus who came to seek and to save that which was lost...
 - No doubt, He is the lion of the tribe of Judah with unequalled majesty and justice.
 - No doubt, He will magisterially consign all His enemies to eternal torments and none will have strength to resist Him...
 - But dear children of Adam,
 - It is that great strength and power and justice that is your comfort when you see that He has come to show mercy and to call you to repentance!

- Do not be in terror of Him,
 - All this is written that you might come to Him for mercy...
 - It is for you to have faith!
 - It is for you to safely entrust yourself to Him for His mercy.
 - Do not despise the day of mercy,
 - But come to come and you will find His loving gracious heart.

In the account of the healing of the two blind men,

- You are given an example of saving faith to help you learn to seek His mercy.
- Come and consider what you can learn from the faith of these men.

I. First, learn from these men how faith begins. Faith's Inception.

A. Saving faith begins when you begin to cry to the Lord Jesus for mercy.

1. You see these blind men in verse 27...

- They follow after Jesus, crying out and saying,
 - "Son of David, have mercy on us!"
- a. I don't know exactly what these men may have thought of Jesus before this...
 - But it was not until they began to plead with Him for mercy that their faith was saving faith...
- b. There are many admirers of the Lord Jesus who watch Him and have high opinions of Him...
 - They may believe that He truly came to earth, died, and rose again...
 - They may believe that He was a great teacher...
 - There are always admirers among the multitudes...
 - But if they do not actually come to Him for mercy,
 - they obtain no benefit for all their admiration.

c. So it was for these blind men...

- Until they came to Jesus for mercy, they remained blind...

2. And so it is for you!

- a. I am glad if you are a great admirer of the Lord Jesus...
 - I am glad if you believe He is merciful and gracious....
 - I am glad if you believe He is able to save all who come to Him...

- b. But I wonder if you have actually come to Him to ask Him to have mercy on you like these blind men did?
 - It will do you no good in the end to be an admirer of Him and to believe all sorts of things about Him if you do not come to Him for mercy.
 - Saving faith has not really begun until you begin to earnestly look to Christ for the forgiveness of your sins!
 - When the Serpent was lifted up in the wilderness, the Israelites had to look to be healed...
 - If they saw others look and believed the remedy worked, it was good,
 - but it was no good if they never looked to be healed for themselves!
 - c. And I don't mean merely asking in a formal way either...
 - You may have prayed the Lord's prayer and said, "Forgive us our debts and we forgive our debtors,"
 - but the question is whether your soul has reached out to the Lord Jesus for Salvation.
 - That is how you are connected to His saving power and grace.
 - Like a power cord,
 - if the cord of faith never reaches Him,
 - the power of salvation does not flow.
 - Saving faith is faith that is connected to Jesus.
- B. There are two things that these blind men had that are essential and foundational to this faith...
1. First of all, they had an awareness of their need.
 - a. To put it very plainly, they had to know that they were blind.
 - 1) It was this knowledge of their condition that compelled them to come to Jesus.
 - 2) They knew very well that there was such a thing as seeing and they knew that they were devoid of that faculty!
 - If everyone around them had been blind from birth, they would not have known that it was possible to see.
 - They would have gone on with perfect contentment and never sought a remedy at all.
 - b. And so it is with you...

- 1) Until you realise that you are in need of salvation, you will never come to Jesus Christ—at least not for salvation.
 - a) Yes, you might come to Him for certain comforts in this world.
 - You might come to Him for your daily bread or for physical health.
 - But you won't come to Him for your real need until you know your real need.
 - There are many that have never grasp the problem of sin—
 - never come to grips with their alienation from God.
 - never seen the foulness of their sin.
 - b) You must come to realise that God's wrath and curse is upon this world because of our sin...
 - You must realise further that His wrath and curse is upon you because of your sin!
 - And you must realise that though you take a thousand baths, you can never wash away your sin.
 - You can offer a thousand sacrifices, but you have nothing of yourself to offer that can truly take away your sins.
 - You must see that your condition is absolutely desperate!
 - And I might add that you see this best when you see what Jesus had to do for the remission of sin—
 - His death on the cross...
- 2) Once you see your wretched condition, you will be desperate to find a remedy!
 - a) You see how these blind men followed after Jesus and would not be stopped even though He seemed to ignore them at first...
 - They follow Him all the way into the house where He enters...
 - And the wording indicates that they were crying out continually and with great earnestness!
 - They were desperate to find a remedy because they knew their need.
 - b) Now if these men were that desperate for their eyes, how much more desperate should you be for your soul!
 1. Think what you are missing with a sinful soul!
 - You are not able to see the wondrous glory of God as you should...

- to delight the glory and goodness of God and see His beauty.
- You are not able to live in the fullness of life as the image of God, reflecting His glory in all your actions,
 - living a life of beauty, purpose, and love!

TRANS> But not only are you missing the fullness of life by your sin...

2. Think what will become of you because of your sin...
 - You will be cast into the lake of fire with the devil and his angels to be tormented day and night forever and ever.
 - God, the perfect Judge, has said that this is what your sin deserves—
 - It is that loathsome, God Himself has declared it.
 - Unless you find a remedy,
 - you are destined for everlasting misery!

TRANS> And so you see that you must have an awareness of your need before you will ever seek out Christ.

- This is the first thing that is foundational and essential to your coming to Him.
 - The second is closely related...
2. You will never come to Jesus until you first learn of Him and of His saving grace.
 - a. In the case of these blind men, they certainly did know that they were blind...
 - But they did not know that there was a remedy for their blindness until they learned of Jesus Christ.
 - 1) They came to Him because they heard of Him...
 - They heard what He was doing for others and they believed that He could help them also.
 - But if they had not heard about Him and about His grace,
 - they would have had no reason to come crying to Him for mercy.
 - They did not follow other people around, asking them for mercy, but they came to Jesus because they had learned that He was the Messiah.
 - 2) I say that they knew Him to be Messiah because they call Him the “Son of David.”

- They don't just say, "have mercy on us," but they say, "Son of David have mercy on us."
 - The title "Son of David" was, at this time, at title that was used to refer to the Messiah that God had promised.
 - This title was used because a thousand years before, God had promised that the deliverer would come of David's line...
 - that the One who would fulfil all that God had promised in His covenant with Abraham would come and save.
 - When these blind men heard what Jesus was doing, they said, "This is the Son of David, this is the promised Messiah."
 - Perhaps they knew that this was the One to whom God spoke when He said by the prophets:
 - Isa 42:6-7: I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.
- 3) Confessing Jesus as the promised Son of David was something that most people were not prepared to do at this time...
- But you can see how these men—because of their pressing need, were quite prepared to do so.
 - They realised that in Him was all their hope.
- b. And so it is for every one of you...
- 1) You have no reason to come to Jesus to save you more than to any other man until you recognise that He is the Messiah!
 - a) You must see that He is the One that God sent to save His people from their sins!
 - No one can be saved until they learn about Jesus Christ...
 - How can they call upon the One whom they have not heard?
 - Faith cannot begin until Christ the object of faith is known.
 - The cord of faith cannot reach Him until He is found.
 - b) How your faith is strengthened when you see how He gives life to others!
 - The blind men saw Him healing others and that gave them hope...
 - But how much more encouragement we have when we see how this Jesus went to the cross with our sins...
 - And how He suffered and died for us...

- And how God raised Him from the dead and declared His acceptance of His sacrifice for the remission of our sins!
- When you see what He has done for sinners, what else can you do but come to Him?

2) May each one of you first see your desperate need...

- And then see Christ, the one who is able to meet that need...
- And then let every one of you come to Him and say,
 - “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
 - Don’t just learn about Him,
 - Come to Him in your need as these blind men came to Him.
 - That is how faith begins.

TRANS> Faith always has a beginning...

- Although I would qualify this by saying that you do not have to know when it began...
 - There are many covenant children who have been coming to Jesus from their earliest days—
 - from infancy their parents taught them of their need and taught them of their Saviour and brought them to Him for blessing...
 - And by the grace of God, the Spirit worked so that those little Ones truly did reach out to Jesus from their earliest days.
- The great question to ask is not “When did you trust in Jesus,”
 - But “Are you trusting in Him.”
 - What matters is that you know your need, that you know your Saviour, and that you are looking to Him to save you.
 - If you are there trusting today, then it is certain that you had to come there.
 - If the cord of faith is connected to him now, it doesn’t matter if you know when it was first plugged in.
 - You may not know when you were physically born either,
 - but if you are here on this earth, you can be sure that you were born.
 - If you are trusting in Jesus, you can be sure that you have come as these men came.
- But now let me go on to the second point...
 - Not only do you learn from these blind men how faith begins...

II. Secondly, learn from these blind men how faith develops: The progression of faith.

A. Do not be surprised if He does not answer you immediately.

1. Did you notice how Jesus seemed to ignore the cry of these men?

a. Matthew has them following after Him and crying out,

- but instead of stopping to attend to them,
- Jesus enters the house.

- Look at verse 27 and 28>

- Matt 9:27-28: When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him.

b. Jesus seems to be simply going on about His business, ignoring their cries!

- What's more, this is not at all unusual!

1) Do we not see this when Israel was in Egypt?

- God heard their groanings and cries...
- But instead of answering them immediately and delivering them,
 - He actually made things get worse at first!
 - He hardened Pharaoh's heart and made their oppression worse before He delivered them!
 - This is written as a pattern for us of how He often works!

2) Consider also Abraham. What did we read of Him today?

- God called him to come to the land of Canaan and promised to bless him and to make him the father of a multitude that would be God's very own people, eternally blessed of Him!
- Abraham left all and went where God told him...
 - And the first thing he encountered in that new land was the threat of death by famine!
 - And then after that, it seemed that God had forgotten His promise to give him a son—for his wife had not conceived and she was well beyond the age to bear children!
 - Abraham had come to Lord for the promised grace,
 - but the Lord seemed to ignore him...

- just as He seemed to ignore these blind men who cried after Him.
- 3) Through the years, it has been God's way with many to bring them around by the long way...
- They pray long for mercy before He answers...
 - a) For some, attaining the assurance of salvation is a long process—
 - they cry for mercy for years before they are finally comforted.
 - b) And for all, there are many prayers that are offered to God that seem to go no farther than the ceiling.
 - Many have to wait until the day of the resurrection for the healing of their bodies...
 - Every Christian prays and yearns for God's kingdom to come,
 - but we wait long to see His hand bring forth salvation in the earth.
 - Daniel prayed for seventy years of captivity and even then, saw a very disappointing release from captivity.
 - Rather than the kingdom restored to the glorious days of David and Solomon,
 - He saw Israel under the thumb of the Persians...
 - And by prophetic vision, he saw that this oppression would only be made worse under the Greeks—
 - And then followed by more oppression under the Romans.
2. Why does the Lord Jesus seem to refuse your prayers for His mercy?
- a. He does it to strengthen your faith!
 - 1) Look at these blind men!
 - How their faith was strengthened to persevere!
 - See how they would not be stopped because they believed!
 - Jesus knew they would come after Him and they did...
 - They followed Him right into the house until they had gained audience with Him.
 - 2) Is this not the great thing about Jacob?
 - Was his name not changed to Israel when it seemed to him that God's promise to him was going to be lost?

- Did he not wrestle with the Lord and say, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”
- He had trusted in many vain manipulations all his life...
 - but now he was reduced to desperation...
 - If the Lord would not bless him, he was completely lost!
 - God brought Him to that point through trials and affliction.
- Jacob then did precisely what our Lord Jesus did for us when He went to the cross!
 - With vehement cries and tears, He prayed until God heard Him and answered him...
 - Both for his own sake and for the sake of his family.

b. This is how the Lord strengthens your faith!

- He brings you to see that there will be no blessing at all unless it comes from Him.

1) I want you to consider Abraham, the man of faith!

- What do you find Abraham doing after Isaac was born?
 - You find him obeying God’s call to take the child that had been promised to him and through whose seed salvation would come to all the earth and offer him up as a sacrifice!
 - Abraham was willing to do this!
 - He was willing because he believed that God would be able to raise him up!
 - What amazing faith!

TRANS> But I ask you...

2) Did Abraham start out that way? Did he begin with this great faith?

- No, not at all!
 - He had faith, but he did not have such great faith...
 - He had beginning faith, saving faith, even fairly strong faith to leave his homeland and go to the place God told him...
 - but he did not have such amazing faith that he would have offered the child of promise if he had had him at that time...
 - No, when the famine came, he went down to Egypt to save his life and told lies—

- he thought he must save himself...
 - Then when a child was not born to him,
 - he took Sarah's maid, Hagar, and conceived a child by her—
 - for he reasoned...
 - How else can I bring forth the child that God has promised to bless?
- 3) It was through all this that God developed such great faith in Abraham.
- It was by sending famines and then delivering him from them...
 - It was by waiting to give him Isaac until his wife was too old to conceive.
 - When He makes you wait, He is strengthening your faith!
 - When He does things that don't make sense, He is building your faith.
 - When you pray and He goes on His way, He is working in you.

TRANS> Now lets return to the blind men...

B. Notice how the Lord Jesus follows His avoidance of them with a question...

1. After the men come into the house He asks them:
 - "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"
 - a. Our temptation might be say to say,
 - "Of course they do... why have they been following you and crying out to you if they do not believe you are able to do this?"
 - Why did Abraham leave his homeland if he did not believe that God was able to bless him?
 - Why did you turn away from those that love you to follow Jesus and leave this world if you do not believe that He is able to save you?
 - b. But the answer is not quite that simple, is it?
 - The LORD asks you this question—
 - "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"
 - while He is making you wait!
 - Was this not what He was asking Abraham when He sent a famine in Canaan, soon after He got there?
 - "Do you still believe that I will bless you?"

- Was this not the question He asked Him when Sarah grew old and the promise remained that she would bear a son?
 - “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”
- c. Now I want you to understand that we do not always know what specific blessings He will give us unless they are promised...
- We don't have a name it and its yours religion—
 - The Lord does not say, “Your wish is my command.”
 - Unless He has promised something, we do not know if He will give it to us or not.
 - But we do know that if we come to Him, He has promised to bless us and bring us to glory.
 - And the question is, when trials come, do you still believe that is able to bless you?
 - When a loved one dies without Christ He says:
 - “Do you believe that I am still able to bless you?”
 - When you are afflicted by physical suffering and your prayers are not answered for years, He says:
 - “Do you believe that I am able to heal you and will heal you?”
 - When you are troubled by the sin that remains in your life and your prayers are not heard He says,
 - “Do you believe that I am able to deliver you from this corruption?”
2. And these men teach us how to answer this question...
- a. Say, “Yes Lord.”
- What a wonderful answer for its simplicity!
 - Christ developed their faith by making them wait.
 - And at the end of the trial, they are able say, “Yes Lord.”
- b. How tempted we are to say:
- “Yes Lord, but...”
 - “Yes Lord, but my wife is beyond the age of childbearing...”
 - “Yes Lord, but how can heaven be a place of glory without my mother who died without salvation?”

- c. And if we don't say, "Yes Lord, but" then we are tempted say...
 - "Yes Lord, because I..."
 - "Yes Lord, you can preserve my life because I am going down to Egypt..."
 - "Yes Lord, you can heal me because I am going this new doctor..."
 - "Yes Lord, you can deliver me from my sinful anger because I am going to this anger management course..."

TRANS> Just learn instead to say, "Yes Lord."

- He is teaching you to trust in Him.

C. When you do, the assurance of faith will follow...

1. He touched their eyes...

a. By touching them, He gave them evidence that their faith had indeed reached Him.

- By touching them, He assures them that the cure is His personal response to their cries.
- Jesus has ways of helping you to see that He is working in your lives.
 - Faith recognises that it is the Lord's touch—His personal working through the means that brings salvation.
 - Faith learns more and more that salvation is entirely of the Lord...

b. He shows you His hand in saving you so that you know it to be His work.

- There are many who come near to Jesus and look to Him for help before they finally come to realise on no uncertain terms that salvation is all His work.
- When the LORD was finished with Abraham,
 - He knew that God was the one who kept him alive and brought forth Isaac...
 - It was not by Abraham's foolish efforts, but by God's grace.
 - The blind men had nothing to boast about—
 - They knew that it was Jesus who healed them.

TRANS> And after He has unmistakably touched you,

2. He **declares** to you that it is by faith we are saved.

a. He says to these blind men,

- "According to your faith let it be to you."

- b. In Ephesians 2, this declaration is made to all who are saved:
 - Eph 2:8-10: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - Salvation from start to finish is by the grace of God...
 - Even faith itself that connects you to Him is His gift.
- c. Faith is indeed the instrument by which we are joined to Christ and by which we receive all His blessings.
 - But the point here is not that faith saves us, but that the thing our faith is in saves us...
 - When Jesus says, “According to your faith let it be to you...”
 - He is talking about no other faith than the faith that these men just professed—the faith that believed that Jesus was able to save them.
 - It is the same as saying,
 - “Salvation is by me and nothing else.”
 - “You have come to me to save you, so I will.”

TRANS> All your life long, Jesus will work in you to develop your faith and teach you that salvation is all of the LORD.

- So you see that after the inception of faith,
 - there is the progression of faith.
 - Now let us learn a third lesson from these blind men...

III. The perfection of faith.

- A. And what you learn from them is to beware because your faith is not yet made perfect.
 1. Though these formerly blind men exhibited genuine faith, they do not exhibit to us perfect faith.
 - Though they even display for us the progression of faith,
 - you must never think that faith does not have many flaws and imperfections in this life!

TRANS> How is this imperfection of faith seen?

2. These men are given orders from Jesus that they do not understand.
 - Rather than trusting Him, they disobey.

- a. For some reason, Jesus tells them with very strong language to keep quiet about what He has done.
 - His language is very strong...
 - Matthew uses an intensified form of an intense word that is translated “sternly warned” in most translations.
 - Perhaps the sternness is due the fact that Jesus has not been obeyed in the past when He issued this order...
 - One way or another, the order is very direct, very clear, and very strong.
 - “See that no one knows it.”
- b. Now I am sure that they were puzzled by such orders!
 - 1) It is even difficult for us to understand why Jesus issued this command and we have the benefit of the completed gospel accounts...
 - In Matthew 12:16-21, we are told that Jesus’ charge to keep quiet is a fulfilment of the Isaiah 42 prophecy where the Holy Spirit reveals that Jesus will not:
 - “quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.”
 - I would suggest that the point here is that He will not be a revolutionary who will gather an army about Him.
 - That, of course, was the mistaken expectation of many of the Jews.
 - 2) Consequently, when these men declared that Jesus was the “Son of David,”
 - in their minds, that probably meant a revolutionary who would deliver Israel from the Romans by war.
 - 3) But of course, thinking the Son of David was a revolutionary,
 - These zealous converts are quite anxious spread the word about Him!
- c. Verse 31 tells us what they did...
 - “When they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.”
 - 1) Whatever Jesus’ exact reasons were for forbidding them to publish this miracle,
 - it is very clear that these men did not obey Him.
 - 2) I would suggest that one of the results of their unadvised zeal of these once blind men and others like them is found in John chapter 6.

- Here we are given the account of the feeding of the five thousand families by Jesus.
- After this event, this multitude wants to take Jesus by force and make Him king!
 - Jesus accuses them of what we might call “belly faith.”
 - He says, “You seek Me because you ate the loaves and were filled.”
 - The multitude always wants to have a messiah to minister to their felt needs— belly faith—
 - a genie in the bottle that will do what they want!
 - This was their conception of the Messiah!

B. What a lesson there is for us in this!

1. The lesson may be stated in this way...

- If the LORD has issued a clear command that doesn't seem reasonable to you, trust that He knows what He is doing and obey Him!
- Oh what folly it is and what damage it does to the kingdom of Christ for foolish believers to act according to their own wisdom when God has spoken!
 - He has His reasons even if you don't understand!
 - Do you not have enough faith to realise that He knows what He is doing even when it doesn't make sense to you?
 - Come now little Christian,
 - Should you revise the calling of the Lord according to your own wisdom?

2. There are a thousand applications to this lesson!

a. It is the lesson that Abraham missed when he took Hagar...

- In his zeal to bring about God's promise, he disobeyed a clear command of God and took a second wife...
 - This act became a snare to all Israel in two ways:
 - It produced an adversary in the Ishmaelites to oppose them...
 - It set a precedent for his descendants that even David and Solomon followed which led to the rise of ungodly seed through their pagan wives...
 - many of which were taken to form alliances in an effort to strengthen the kingdom!
 - Did it not seem to meet with great success for Solomon?

- What political strength and what wealth it brought to Israel!
 - But it was this very thing that brought about their downfall!
- b. Do you see all the things that are done today in the church in the name of zeal for God's kingdom?
- 1) Some years ago, a lot of people in the modern church stumbled because the Bible says that God created the world in six days...
 - This was in the days before the theory of evolution began to fall apart.
 - It seemed that the Bible was contradicting science.
 - It is much easier now to see how slender and inadequate the evidence for this theory are...
 - But the problem was that many sincere Christians began to allow for other views to try to accommodate the theory of evolution.
 - They tried to suggest that the Bible was only true when it spoke of doctrine about God and about how we should live.
 - The result was that a whole generation grew up that did not regard the word of God.
 - 2) Over the last several hundred years,
 - many people have taken offence at the Bible's teaching on the wrath of God and on eternal punishment.
 - To save the world from stumbling at this, many well-meaning Christian teachers began to revise worship to take out the offensive statements from the Psalter having to do with God's wrath...
 - Even Isaac Watts himself claimed that his goal was to make David "sound like a Christian."
 - Today the problem is even worse.
 - Almost all liberal ministers like Robert Shuller deny the doctrine of eternal punishment...
 - And even ministers like John Stot have questioned this clear teaching of the Bible and some many evangelicals will not speak about it.
 - The result has been a reduction in the glory of Christ's work who bore God's wrath for us...
 - And very often He is presented as a friend we all need rather than a Saviour who came to save us from the wrath to come.

- This effort to advance God's kingdom has served only to truncate the gospel.
- 3) Today, many people do not understand why women should not serve as elders and pastors...
- It is reasoned that since this causes offense, we will help Christ's kingdom by ignoring what God has said about this...
 - He says that women are not to teach in the church, but we will do it anyway for the sake of the kingdom!
 - When this is done, the whole order that God has established is overthrown and in many places, it has led to a denial of the Trinity.

TRANS> All this and much more has been done by those who wished to promote the kingdom of God.

- 4) But perhaps one of the most disturbing applications of all is the found in the modern church growth movement which has even found its way into our own denomination...
- In an effort to attract more people to Christ, this movement seeks to use modern marketing methods to spread the gospel.
 - The gospel is treated like a commodity to be packed and promoted in a way that appeals to unbelievers...
 - Because people are not comfortable with preaching; drama, testimonies, concerts, and interviews are used to spread the word...
 - Because people like to be entertained, jokes and performing arts are brought in to conform to people's tastes.
 - And to ensure that more people will come, surveys are conducted to find out what people's felt needs are...
 - And then Jesus is presented as the one who will meet those felt needs.
 - You can guess what the result of all this is!
 - Belly religion!
 - Five thousand come to Jesus to have their felt needs satisfied.
 - Five thousand that want to fill their belly with bread but have no desire for the gospel.

- c. Brothers and sisters, we must resist the temptation to follow our own wisdom!
- I am not interested in promoting anything but Christ.
 - Faith that does not obey is faith that is corrupted...

- Let us learn from the example of these men to trust in our Lord Jesus and to despise our own wisdom...
- Let us learn to follow Him even when we don't understand.

Conclusion

So come and let these blind men lead you...

- Let them show you the way to come to Christ in faith...
 - Do not take their lesson in vain.
 - Come before it is too late and you will find Jesus to be a kind and merciful saviour.
- Let them show you how to grow to full assurance of faith...
 - Come and Jesus will stretch your faith and shape you for a fuller more abundant faith.
- And learn from their mistakes how to trust Christ even when you don't understand.