

Sermon Study - Matthew 20:29-21:17 - Behold the Blindness

Problem:

-Read: John 3:16-19.

Based on 3:19, what specifically was the problem, proof or perception?

-Read: Matthew 13:10-15.

Why did God make them unable?

-Read: Romans 1:18-32.

Man is not blind simply because he cannot see, He is blind because he will not see... and because he will not see he is made so that he cannot see.

Main Idea:

Damnation is a synergistic process (God and man cooperate for his damnation)

Text:

Lord let our eyes be opened (Matthew 20:29-34)

-In verse 30 we see these blind men referencing Jesus as the Son of David.

-Read: 2 Samuel 7:11-16 and Isaiah 9:7.

-What did this term mean?

-Read: Matthew 1:1

-Based on this introduction and genealogy, what was Matthew's purpose?

-Read: Matthew 9:27 and 15:22.

-What do these passages, along with 21:30-31, have in common?

-Read Matthew 12:23 and 22:42.

-How does Matthew contrast these that have no reason to believe with those who had every reason to believe?

Behold the King (Matthew 21:1-11)

-Verse 5 quotes from Zechariah 9:9 but leaves out a few details in the quoting.

Why might this be the case?

-Note that verse 7 is illustrated in 1 Kings 1:33 and 2 Kings 9:13.

-The people were quoting the first part of Psalm 118:25-26 but left out what part?

-Looking ahead to Matthew 21:12, where does Jesus go next?

-What should He have received there?

Behold the money (Matthew 21:12-13)

-Verse 13 is a combination of two sections from the Old Testament.

-the first part is from Isaiah 56:6-8.

-Read it and relate it to Jesus' present circumstances

-the second part is from Jeremiah 7:1-11.

-Read it and relate it to Jesus' present circumstances.

-Read: Matthew 6:19-24.

-How does this relate to Jeremiah and Matthew 21:12-13?

Behold the blindness (Matthew 21:14-17)

-In verse 15 the children were repeating the refrain they heard in 21:9. They were literally fulfilling the second part of Psalm 118:26 but notice the reactions by the religious leaders (verse 15).

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- Jesus quotes Psalm 8 drawing out the point made earlier - infants and babies, like blind men and gentiles have no reason IN THEMSELVES that would cause them to believe. They literally illustrate God's sovereign work in bringing people to Himself.
- Read Matthew 23:37-39 and Luke 19:39-44.
- How do these verse relate Psalm 118:26 to the triumphal entry?
 - Read Zechariah 12:10; 14:1-4, 20-21.
 - There will be a future time when Christ will come as a conquering King.

Implication:

Read: John 9:35-41

- damnation is synergistic (God and man cooperate for his damnation)

but...

-what does our Lord teach us by contrasting the religious leaders (the ones who should have believed) with those who are blind, with those that are babies, with gentiles and others who have no reason to believe?

Read: John 10:1-16, 22-28

- salvation is completely monergistic.
(God saves and some WILL believe)(not based on our cleverness)

How does Ephesians 2:1-10, sum this up?

- What does Lazarus have in common with the blind, with the gentiles and babies etc?
- Read Romans 5:8.
- What does Lazarus have in common with us?

Read: John 6:35-44, 60-71. In the midst of Man's blindness, how does this encourage us in terms of evangelism?

- Read: I Corinthians 2:1-14.
 - How did we come to Christ?
 - How will others?
 - How does Paul's conviction in verse 1-2, encourage us?

Read: Matthew 13:16-17; 16:17.

- What did God give blind people like us?
- What will He give to the elect that are yet to respond?
- How does this encourage our evangelism in the midst of so much blindness?

Read and discuss the following articles:

<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-sovereignty-of-god-and-evangelism/>

<http://andynaselli.com/summary-and-outline-of-j-i-packers-evangelism-and-the-sovereignty-of-god>
take time to come up with tangible action steps you will use both individually and corporately to apply these truths to your lives.