

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #70

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 18:35-43

Sermon Date: Jan 28, 2007

When Should I Pray for Me?

Sometimes I wonder if I pray about 'Me' too much. I know we're told to pray about our needs, but I can focus inwardly way too much. At other times, I start to feel like I only pray for others, disregarding myself. Again, I know we're told to pray for one another. But this can become sort of a mask to hide behind. "Who me, I'm fine. No, let's pray for those who are really sick or in need." Here's the issue: Do we keep saying that even when we are really NOT FINE? When we really DO have needs?

Jesus wants us to be authentic with him. When we have needs, he wants us to call out to him for help. The blind man in this week's study passage shows us how. And Jesus' response affirms that this is the right thing to do. Meanwhile, when others around us have needs, we are to help connect them with our 'Jehovah Rapha' – the God who heals. In Luke 18:35-43 the disciples blow this when they try to quiet the blind man. Some of us reading this need physical or emotional healing. Others need to see God more clearly. And all of us need God's help to grow more like Christ in our behavior and attitudes. Lord, please help us in this.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

South Shore Baptist Church
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2592

Bible Study:

1. Read this week’s Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 18:35-43</p> <p>³⁵ As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”</p> <p>³⁸ He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”</p> <p>³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”</p> <p>⁴⁰ Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?”</p> <p>“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.</p> <p>⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.</p>	

2. This story (or at least a similar one) is also told in two other gospels. What similarities and differences do you see?

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Matthew 20:29-34

²⁹ As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰ Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

³¹ The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

³² Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

³³ “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

³⁴ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

3. How do you explain the differences between these accounts regarding (a) the number of blind men healed and (b) the direction of travel (to or from Jericho)?

4. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

5. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Closer:

6. What does the blind man seem to know about Jesus?

7. How does Jesus' response to the man differ from the way his disciples responded to him? How do you think you would have responded in a similar situation?

8. What about the blind man's conduct might have helped the disciples see his faith sooner? What can we learn from this?

9. Review the following verses that describe Jesus' messianic mission: Isaiah 35:5, 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-21, 7:18-23. How then does Jesus' interaction with this blind man fit into his mission?

10. Did Jesus heal this man spiritually as well as physically? What do you base your answer on?

11. This passage also contains an indirect lesson about not hindering those who need Christ (recall Luke 18:16). We need to hear people's cries for help and usher them toward Christ (rather than pushing them aside when they perhaps seem to be inconveniencing our "progress" or "practices").

a. Search your heart and your past – where may you have pushed people away from Christ?

b. What kinds of situations typically arise in your life where you think you could do a better job of helping those in need to come closer to Christ to experience his healing touch? How could you handle such opportunities better than you have in the past?

12. Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" Then he responded to the man's request to see again by healing him. What is or has been your form of "blindness"?

a. How have you experienced Christ's healing touch in your life? Physically? Spiritually?

b. Where do you need physical or emotional healing in your own life?

c. In what ways do you feel like you are still blind spiritually?

13. If you have identified anything in question 12 a, b, or c, take time right now to pray for your own healing. Consider James 5:13-16. You might use this passage as a template for your own conversation with God about your needs for healing. It also provides some specific things you can do. (By the way, our elders do pray for and anoint those who are sick. Call and ask.)

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:13-16)

14. Re-read verse 43. When you experience Jesus' healing touch in your life – whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually – how should you respond? Why?