

Sermon Reflections

Seeing Jesus with Believing Eyes (Matthew 9: 18-34)

Introduction:

People often have different interpretations of the same experience or event. Does this necessarily imply that one or more are wrong? What enables a believer to see spiritual truths a non-believer cannot discern?

The fact of Jesus confronts us, forcing us to make a choice.

What is that choice? What are the consequences of that choice for the believer? The non-believer?

1. Faith Shown in a Shameless Request for Christ (vv. 18-19)

- What was the significance of the Jewish ruler approaching Jesus? With what attitude did he approach Jesus? What does the ruler's statement reveal about his faith in Jesus?
- **Application:** What is your attitude when you approach Jesus? How is worship related to your interaction with Jesus?

2. Faith Shown in a Sure Reliance upon Christ (vv. 20-22)

- How do the manifestations of faith in this woman and the Jewish ruler compare? In what sense did the faith of this woman “make her well”?
- **Application:** Do you believe Jesus can do what is best for or will do what is best for you? How does your answer affect your Christian walk?

3. Unbelief Shown in a Scornful Rejection of Christ (vv. 23-24)

- Why did the mourners ridicule Christ? How did Christ respond to the mockers?
- **Application:** Do I let worldly evidence and wisdom affect what I believe about Jesus and what He can do? How do I respond to those who mock or ridicule my Christian beliefs?

4. Faith Shown in a Surprised Report about Christ (vv. 25-26)

- How does the story of the Jewish ruler's daughter relate to salvation?
- How can we be sure if someone is spiritually alive, dead, or just sleeping?
- **Application:** Has the news of your encounter with Christ gone “out into all the land”?

5. Faith Shown in a Steadfast Running after Christ (vv. 27-31)

- What do you learn from the persistence of the blind men? Why did these men, like those in the story of the ruler's daughter (see Mark 5:43), tell what happened despite Jesus' admonition not to share?
- If your prayers were answered “according to your faith,” how would Jesus respond?

6. Unbelief Shown in a Satanic Reproach against Christ (vv. 32-34)

- What is the significance of the statement: “It was never seen like this in Israel”? Why did the Pharisees not acknowledge the source of Jesus' power?
- **Application:** How do you determine if someone's ministry is of God, man, or Satan?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What can we learn from the various ways individuals approached and responded to Jesus in these verses? Observe the number of times “hand” or “touch” are used. Do you think this is significant? Why?