TITLE: Lord I want to see!

Hymn light of the world is Jesus

TEXT: Luke 18:35-43; Is. 42:16; Jn. 9:39;

Mt. 4:16; 2nd Co. 4:4; 1st Jon. 1:9 & 1:5-7

INTRODUCTION: I can remember once being asked the question, if you had to either lose your hearing or your sight, which would you choose to lose?

 I was a kid when that question came up and I don't remember who asked it or why... Most probably one of my philosophical friends after we had watched a movie about Helen Keller......

 I don't even remember how I responded at the time...

 But now, if asked the question, without hesitation, I would say that I would rather keep my sight....( I am half deaf anyway and it isn't really all that bad--It even has its advantages!) (Honey I didn’t hear you tell me to take out the trash)

 In fact, I don't know that I can think of anything worse than not being able to see and visually enjoy all of God’s creation....

 Yet, there are those born blind that have never seen any of the beauty of this world that we live in that we who can see often take for granted....

 Jesus ran across such a man one day as He and His disciples were approaching the city of Jericho..

**Luke 18:35 (NIV) 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."**

**38 He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

**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!"**

**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?"**

**"Lord, I want to see," he replied.**

**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.**

You have to picture the scene here to fully appreciate this story...

 Jesus is walking with his disciples and other followers getting ready to enter the city of Jericho.

 As they approach the city gates there is a blind man sitting there--as he most probably did every day to collect alms (beg for money). He hears the entourage approaching so he asks what all the commotion is about and he is told that Jesus of Nazareth is about to pass by...

 No doubt Jesus reputation has preceded Him. This blind beggar has heard about the miracles that Jesus has been doing all around the Judean countryside**...**

So this blind man who obviously can't see exactly where Jesus is cries out as loud as he can:

 Jesus, son of David, Have mercy on me!

 It doesn't say who, it just says those who were leading the way, come over to where the blind man was crying out from and rebuke the blind man and tell him to be quiet...

 SWHSSSS! Brother, you are embarrassing yourself and you are embarrassing us! Now just be quiet, this is an important man here!

 Notice what it says the blind man does! He does the same thing that I believe you or I would do if in the same situation! If we were blind from birth and someone is about to pass by who has a reputation for being able to heal all manner of infirmity, including blindness!

 It says that He shouted it all the more!

 Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

 This guy is really making a spectacle of himself!

 But he doesn't care!! He is blind! He can't see!!

 He has just heard that Jesus, this one who is going around performing many mighty miracles is about to walk right by him and he isn't going to miss out on the opportunity, he might just be Jesus’ next miracle and now is not the time to sit back and be quiet and possibly miss the opportunity!! Now is the time to be loud and be heard!

 Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

 Jesus hears the man and has him brought to him..

 Jesus asks a question that He already knows the answer to... **What do you want me to do for you?**

 Notice the blind man’s response?

**Lord, I want to see!**

First he addresses Jesus as Lord....

**4462 rhabboni {hrab-bon-ee'}** }

**of Aramaic origin; AV - Lord (Christ) 1, Rabboni (Christ) 1; master, chief, prince**

The blind man uses a word, a title of respect here to describe Jesus that is only used one other time in Scripture.

 The only other time this particular word is used in addressing Jesus is when the resurrected Jesus reveals Himself to Mary outside the tomb and Mary cries out to Him, Rabboni! Lord, Master!

Jesus responds: **Receive your sight; your faith has healed you!**

One thing that is synonymous with all the healings of Jesus in Scripture is faith.

 Faith that Jesus could heal in any given situation.

 The centurion had faith for his servants healing!

 The men that lowered their friend through the roof to get him to Jesus had faith!

 The woman with a blood flow who touched the hem of Jesus cloak had faith!

 Jesus here says that it was this man’s faith that was the primary factor in his healing.

 Actually, I believe this man received a double miracle of healing that day... It wasn't just his physical eyes that received sight that day, but more importantly, his spiritual eyes were opened first.

 He recognized Jesus as the Christ; his spiritual eyes were opened before he could see physically, not after!

 Lord, Raboni! I want to see!

 All of us here this morning have our physical sight and as wonderful as that is it is not nearly as important as having our spiritual eyes opened...

 Before we come to God, through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, we are all spiritually blind...

 We may be able to see physically, but unless we have had our spiritual eyes opened, unless we have been enlightened by the light of Christ in our life, we are no better off than someone who is totally without sight.

James Packer, in his book, Knowing God, writes:

 *“Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives. As it would be cruel to an Amazonian tribesman to fly him to London, put him down without explanation in Trafalgar Square and leave him, as one who knew nothing of English or England, to fend for himself, so we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it. The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place and life with it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know God.*

 *Disregard the study of God and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you.*

 *This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.”*

 **Isai 42:16 (NIV) I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.**

**These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.**

This is not speaking about physical blindness here. God is addressing the backslidden condition of His people. They had become spiritually blind.

 The ways of God had become unknown to them..

 The paths of God had become unfamiliar to them..

So, God offers them, and us, this hope:

 **I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.**

**These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.**

 These hopes, these promises, were fulfilled in Jesus! Jesus, The balm, the suave from Heaven that God sent to heal our spiritual blindness.

**John 9:39 (NIV) Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."**

 Jesus came into this world so that the blind could receive their sight.

 Again, Jesus isn't talking about physical blindness here! He is talking about spiritual blindness.

 Sure, Jesus healed physically while he was here and

 He still does.

 But that is not the primary purpose for which He came. He came to heal us spiritually. To restore our spiritual sight so that we can see to find our way back to God.

 Jesus came as light to illuminate the darkness of this world that we live in! The darkness that each of us have fallen into.

**Matt 4:16 (NIV) the people living in darkness**

**have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."**

Jesus is that light. He is the light that restores sight.

 Before we come to Christ, each and every one of us where walking in spiritual darkness, we were spiritually blind! And there is a reason for that.

**2Cor 4:4 The god of this age( Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

Satan has one agenda, the same agenda for each man, woman and child on this planet.

 To keep us in the dark! To keep us spiritually blind! Blind to the light of the Gospel! Blind, so that we cannot see the light of the glory of Christ!

 And he has been very successful in doing this in our nation today. We have millions of our fellow citizens that are walking around in spiritual blindness today.

 Satan has blinded them to the light of Christ and they have no spiritual sight..

 Largely Satan has used secularism as his tool to blind us.

 We see it in the savagery of our politics and our nation being destroyed through political correctness, a corrupt and bias media pushing that agenda. A nation being blinded by secularism and a push toward socialism and anti-Americanism.

 Today there is a blanket of spiritual darkness hovering over America. We see it manifest in ungodly national laws, violence and anarchy in our streets with leaders either condoning it or even encouraging it for their own perceived political gain.

 But Scripture says that the Light of Christ is brighter than the darkness of the enemy.

 And when we let the light of Christ into our life it will displace the darkness of the enemy.

When we allow the light of Christ in our life we will start to see the darkness, that His light reveals, fade and dissipate. .

[**Isa**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/9-2.htm) **9:2 The people walking in darkness**

**have seen a great light;**

**on those living in the land of deep darkness**

**a light has dawned.**

 Example: before I came to Christ I was spiritually blind! Because of my spiritual blindness, I was a good sinner. I Knew right from wrong but didn't associate it with sin against God. My deeds were covered in spiritual darkness.

 After I accepted Christ I became a terrible sinner!

 The light of Christ revealed my sin to me! I could still do it but now I felt guilt and shame and associated my wrong doings with sin--Sin against God.

 What happened? The light overpowered the darkness! The light revealed the darkness within me..

 Once revealed, once brought into the light I could confess it, repent of it and move on..

 I could claim the promise of:

**1Joh 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

But it takes the light, being in the light, having our spiritual vision restored, to reveal our sin to us as sin that needs to be turned from and repented of.

 The only way that we can have our spiritual vision restored is to place ourselves in the light of Jesus.

 Ask the light of the world to come and fill our hearts.

To call out to the great physician just like the blind man sitting outside the city of Jericho did... Jesus, son Of David, Have mercy on me! Lord, I want to see!

(Song) Ray Boltz-- I want to see

**1Joh 1:5 (NIV) This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

**6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**

**7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**

 Is that the desire of your heart this morning?

 To walk in the light just as He is in the light?

 To allow the blood of Jesus to purify you from all sin?

 Then Know that the Lord is here this morning, He is passing by the gate of our life... Listening for us to call out to Him: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me, a sinner!

 Lord, I want to see!

(I Want to See—Ray Boltz)

He sat in the darkness
At the edge of the road
He heard the crowd passing by
But he couldn't go
So he started crying
Like a child at the door
When they tried to quiet him
He shouted it more

CHORUS:
I want to see
Free me from this darkness
Sweeping over me
I want to see
Son of David, have mercy on me

Now his heart was trembling
Could this really be true?
A voice in the darkness said
What do you want Me to do?

CHORUS

Eyes opened in a moment of grace
Light filled the skies
One touch
And he sees the face of life

Now I'm like that blind man
Who lived long ago
I want to see Jesus
And I just don't care who knows