

St. Peter Lutheran Church
February 15, 2026
Quinquagesima
Luke 18:31-43

The secrets of the kingdom of God, even when unveiled from parables and spoken plainly, are not perceived by the natural man. The natural man does not understand the things of God for they are spiritually discerned. **No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Similarly, **what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?**

When Jesus takes aside the twelve and tells them in plain words what will take place when they arrive in Jerusalem, **they understand none of these things.** Even in plain words, the saying about Jesus suffering, dying, and rising in fulfillment of the Holy Scriptures, is **hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.**

The things of God must be revealed to us by His Spirit. It is by receiving the Spirit of God that **we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** The spirit of the world, and all of man's wisdom, can pour over the words of Holy Scripture for a lifetime without resulting faith. Man's wisdom can't teach us about the kingdom of God. Only the Holy Spirit can teach these things.

The twelve are men of faith, followers of Jesus, but this chief mystery of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is not yet taught to them by God. He hides this from them still, even as Jesus plainly speaks about it. God will open their eyes concerning the necessity of the Passion, but He will do so in time. First, in their blindness to these facts, they must fall away from Jesus and be scattered. First, in the darkness, they must huddle in fear when their Lord dies. But then, when He rises, He will show them Himself. He will appear to them and open their eyes to the reality of the resurrection. He will open the eyes of the disciples on the road to Emmaus to fully grasp who He is as the Christ, the one, who having died, is alive again. With their eyes opened to these things and His resurrected presence with the Church forever, they will need to see Him no more. They will behold Him thereafter by faith, even as we behold Him until He comes again.

The healing miracle in the Gospel today teaches about blindness and sight—both physically and spiritually. Jesus' miracle teaches about the enlightening of the Holy Spirit which enlightens and enlivens the entire person, soul and body.

It happened, as [Jesus] was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. The man is sitting by the road. He is not on the road—he is not among those journeying. But he is about to be on the way together with Jesus and his disciples. He is about to join those journeying toward Jerusalem to see the events unfolded which are not yet understood, our Lord's holy passion.

This blind man, **hearing a multitude passing by...asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.** The man had heard of Jesus of Nazareth. Word of this miracle worker had gotten to him and to many. We know the man has heard of Jesus by what he does next. **He cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”** Here in the blind man’s cry is the recognition that Jesus is the eternal King, the promised Son of David who will reign forever. And though his physical eyes are blind, he sees by faith that Jesus, the King, is merciful. He sees by faith that Jesus is the Messiah in fulfillment of the Scriptures—that he has been sent **to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind.**

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” We are reminded of the disciples foolishly shooing the children away from Jesus earlier in this very chapter. The ones on the way with Jesus need to figure it out that this way of Jesus is for such as these—the children, the blind, the tax collectors and the adulterers—the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, and those who are oppressed. He is the merciful King, come to release us from our sins and give us a place in His kingdom without end. The blind man believes this and sees Jesus rightly. So **he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

We are right to join this blind man as we approach Jesus, crying out Kyrie Eleison! Lord, have mercy! This is the cry of faith, the cry that sees Jesus correctly, as the eternal King who brings salvation. And so we cry!

And the Lord hears and answer our pleas for mercy. As the blind man that die continued to cry out, **Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I should receive my sight.” Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.”** Of course the Lord will take time to hear and answer the blind man, the small child, the poor, the adulterer, the unjust, and the extortioner—Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He came to release those in lifelong slavery to sin and death and grant life and salvation. Willing to go to the cross to procure this freedom, He is willing to hear our cries and answer.

And immediately [the blind man] received his sight, and followed [Jesus], glorifying God. Those whose eyes God has opened to see Jesus in faith don’t stay by the way and watch Jesus go off down the road, they join Jesus on the way, they become his disciples and they follow Him. And as God has given us eyes of faith in Jesus as the merciful King who delivers us, He brings restoration of our whole person. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit to see Jesus rightly, the blind man’s physical sight was restored too. The eyes of our hearts have been opened to see Jesus, and through faith in Him, we are made entirely well. Whatever ailment, whatever disability, even death itself cannot prevent our permanent and full healing in Jesus.

For the same merciful Son of David who stopped and listened to the blind man and restored his sight, continued his journey to Jerusalem to suffer, to die, and on the third day be raised—to bring this healing and eternal healing to all who believe in Him. He took our infirmities and our

sins to the cross. And He rose to bring life and immortality to light. Death no longer has dominion over Him. He lives and reigns forever on the throne of David. Righteous and having salvation is He. In His mercy, he gives us a share in His eternal inheritance, a place in His kingdom of light, the hope of the resurrection from the dead and the life everlasting.

God who enlightened this blind man by His Spirit has enlightened us too. We have been born of water and the Spirit so that we can see and enter the Kingdom of God. We follow Him, even to Jerusalem, even to suffering, even to death. Lent is a yearly focus on just this thing. We go with Jesus toward the cross knowing our faith has saved us, and therefore we will be comforted, we will be made well, we will rise from death and live with Jesus. For in Him, we already have comfort, already are well, and already have eternal life. We have passed already from death to life, through faith in Jesus Christ.

And even here today, as we have cried out our Kyrie, we follow Jesus to the cross. We kneel and partake of his body given and his blood shed. He hears us and comes to us and forgives us, and His forgiveness necessary ends in eternal healing with all those who are on the way with us, following Jesus. Amen.