

A Probing Question

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this?

Matthew 9:28

In the Gospel of Matthew, after the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus embarks on a mission of miraculous works. A wide variety of physical healings, demons cast out, and power over the natural world, confirmed that the carpenter from Nazareth was the Messiah. Hearing of Jesus's divine works caused multitudes to seek Him for a remedy to their problems. In some cases, our Lord would test their faith in varying ways to filter their motives for coming to Him.

In today's account, two unnamed blind men follow Jesus, asking for Him to have mercy on them. It appears our Lord did not immediately respond to their request, but as they followed Him into a house, He turns to them and asks "Believe ye that I am able to do this"? When they respond yes, Jesus touches their eyes, saying, "*According to your faith be it unto you*". With the miracle completed, and their faith bolstered, the blind men go about proclaiming what Jesus had done.

Believe ye that I am able to this? Though we will not hear an audible voice, this question is often presented to us. Deep down, we know that God is able to do the impossible. From the creation of the world through the resurrection of our Savior, God proves himself through the miraculous. The encouragements to pray are abundant throughout the scriptures. Examples of the saints who prayed in impossible situations, and admonishments for saints to pray, inspire us to do the same. Knowing that we don't have perfect knowledge our prayers are submitted to God's will. At the same time, there is no use in praying if we don't believe that God can answer. Our faith is not in our faith but the Lord of heaven and earth.

Throughout our life, we will be confronted with situations that exceed our power to remedy. In those times of testing, fear and worry can dominate our thought, yet the believer's resource and spiritual instinct are to pray. None of us have perfect faith, but we are to believe that the Lord can meet the need. When we pray for the salvation of a loved one, or a strained relationship, or a financial need, or a health issue, or for a host of other things that arise; do we hear that voice saying "believe ye that I am able to this"? Continue in prayer today to the One who can answer.

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