

## The Blind Man of Jericho

In Jesus' time, the blind, the crippled or those afflicted with physical ailments were treated as outcastes in society. But Jesus heard their cries for help and cured them.



Jesus had become well known for helping people who were sick or suffering. People would come to Him looking for relief, because they knew Jesus had the power to heal any sickness.

One day as Jesus was nearing a town called Jericho, a blind man sitting by the road heard a crowd coming in his direction. He asked someone what was happening and was told Jesus of Nazareth was passing by and people were excited to see Him. The man could not see so he cried out aloud, "Jesus, son of David. Take pity on me!"

Jesus heard him and stopped. But some people in the crowd shouted at the blind man and told him to be quiet. They felt he should not be bothering Jesus. But Jesus asked the crowd to make way for the blind man and asked him what was it that he wanted?



Know Now: Jericho is perhaps the oldest city on the earth. Near Jericho, the monastery of Saint John recalls the site where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Each of the three Synoptic Gospels tells of Jesus healing the blind man near Jericho, as He passed through that town, shortly before His passion. The Gospel of Mark tells of the cure of a man named Bartimaeus healed by Jesus as He is leaving Jericho.



The blind man wanted to see and Jesus said that his faith had already healed him. At once, the blind man was able to see and he followed Jesus. He gave thanks to God. The crowd saw the blind man was healed and could see now. They too began to praise God.

So Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Sir," he answered, "I want to see again." Jesus said to him, "Then see! Your faith has made you well." At once he was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving thanks to God. When the crowd saw it, they all praised God.

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Jesus, I believe in you. You have the power of the Spirit to heal us. Thank you Jesus. Have mercy on us. Amen.

Have you seen any blind person trying to cross the road? Have you ever asked your parents to help them? Every differently abled person is as important to God. They live a normal life and they also work in offices to earn their living and help their families. It is not their fault for having any disability. Try closing your eyes for 5 minutes and feel how they do every day. Next time you see a disabled person needing help, just ask your mom or dad to extend it.





Do you know even the blind can read just as you do? Yes, they use a method called Braille. Invented by Louis Braille, it is a system of touch reading, and writing, in which raised dots represent the letters of the alphabet. Join the thick dots and see what is hidden behind this mystery line.

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