

## RESTORED SIGHT

**Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Cecil Clements

**Date:** 15-06-2025

**Scripture:** Matthew 9: 27-31

Matthew 9: 27-31

*<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>28</sup> When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus \*said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." <sup>29</sup> Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." <sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!" <sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.*

I guess you can't keep something like that quiet.

I've always been fascinated by the questions that Jesus asked. They seem almost redundant most of the time. I mean, if you're in the crowd and you heard Jesus ask a question, you'd say, "I can answer that."

Look at the question. "Do you believe I am able to do this?" Remember He asked Bartimæus, a blind man who came to Him, "What do you want me to do for you? I mean, anybody in the crowd would have said: Jesus, for crying out loud, he's a blind man. He wants his sight back. What else could he want?

Or remember the man at the pool of Bethesda. "Do you want to get well?" For 38 years, it says, he was sitting there waiting to be put into the pool, and Jesus says, "Do you want to get well?" I've been fascinated every time as I look at the questions that Jesus asks. And I was thinking that we need to focus on and see why, because nothing that Jesus says is a waste. Nothing! There's great profundity in what He spoke while He was here on earth.

In Matthew 9, we see that two blind men who've been following Him. Remember, Jesus had just raised the daughter of Jairus. They're following Him, and they say to Him, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." They're desperate. They believe that He can help, and when they finally reach Him, Jesus turns and asks this question: Do you believe that I'm able to do this? Of course they believe, would be our response. That's why they were following Him.

But He asks this question for a reason. He's drawing out something much deeper, and He's asking, I believe, the same question of us today. That question asked by Jesus two thousand odd years ago, I believe would be the same question for us today. "Do you believe He can do this?"

Look at the context of that ninth chapter. It's one of the most fast-paced chapters in the New Testament, the one that has such a dynamic content to it. Right at the beginning, we see Jesus heals the paralytic who was brought by four friends. Then He calls Matthew, the tax collector: Come and follow Me, and Matthew gets up and follows Him. Then He raises Jairus' daughter from the dead, and then He heals the woman who was haemorrhaging for 12 years. All of this is captured in that ninth chapter. Then He talks about the two blind men who are following Jesus, and immediately after that, He heals a man who was demon-possessed, who was mute. Jesus gets the demon out, and the man is able to speak again. Such activity!

But as He leaves Jairus' house, these two blind men come after Him and they say, "Son of David." The phrase 'Son of David' was a loaded Messianic title, and it seems to me that while these men may

have been physically blind, they were not spiritually blind at all. It seems that physically they had no sight, but spiritually it seemed like they had 20/20 vision. For they referred to Him by His Messianic title, Son of David.

Then Jesus turns to them and asks them, possibly privately, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” I see three very profound layers in that question.

#### **THE QUESTION: “DO YOU BELIEVE I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?”**

##### **1. It’s Personal.**

It’s very personal. Do you believe enough to trust Me in this thing. Believing is easy. Everyone believes. But to put that belief into trust is entirely different.

You’ve heard me talk about the tightrope walker, Blondin. One day, he had a tightrope across the Niagara Falls, from the Canadian side to the American side. And he asked the people: Do you think I can do this? Do you believe that I can do this? And they shouted, “We believe, we believe.” He did it.

Then from the other side, he shouted, “Do you believe I can push a wheelbarrow across?” and everybody shouted, “We believe, we believe.” Then he held up his hands and he said, “Do you believe that I can push the wheelbarrow with someone seated inside?” And they shouted, “We believe. We believe.” That’s when he asked the question, “Who will be that person?” And there was pin-drop silence, because it’s one thing to believe; it’s another thing to stake your life on that belief.

And Jesus asked them, “Do you believe?” A very practical question; not a theoretical question at all. Their answer matters to Jesus. Do you believe?

##### **2. It’s a Christ-centered question.**

Do you believe that I am able? He’s not asking: Do you believe in healing? Do you believe that God does miracles? No! He’s asking “Do you believe in Me being able to do this?”

Many today believe in prayer and the miracles that go with it. but sometimes, we don’t really have faith that it is going to happen. We look at Jesus and say, “Well, I don’t know, Jesus. This may be just much too difficult for You.”

I love seeing the prayer requests that come from you all as I collate it and put it together. Because one of the things that tells me is that you believe that Jesus can make a difference in that prayer request. And we’re seeing that happen. I would encourage those of you who haven’t sent in prayer requests, even though you’re struggling with things. We post it anonymously. Your name won’t be mentioned. Send it in because you have a church community taking that prayer request to the throne room. It’s Christ-centered. Do you believe I am able?

##### **3. It’s very confrontational.**

Do you believe I am able to do this? It’s not vague. It’s not general. It’s very specific to who they are. And that’s what Jesus was pressing them for. The ‘this’ for them was sight. And Jesus was asking them, “Do you believe that I can do this?”

I love their response. It’s very simple. Faced with that, they just say, “Yes, Lord. Yes. We believe that You can do this.” No argument. No explanation. No bargaining. Just a clear yes. A

declaration of pure confidence in Jesus. And they add 'Lord', showing the authority that they believed that He had.

### THE RESULT:

It was met with power. v. 29 says, "Then He touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith, let it be done to you.'" And their sight was restored.

Three things happened.

1. **Jesus responded to their faith.** He honours the very thing that He asked about. Your faith has made you well. Or according to your faith. Or God has made you well. Great is your faith. But their sight was restored.
2. **He touches their eyes.** I love this part. Can you imagine what it meant for blind people to be touched by the Master, someone that they were calling Lord? They had full faith in Him. And He didn't just say words. He reached out and He touched their eyes. Oh! I wonder what that touch felt like. The touch of the Master's hand.
3. **Their sight was restored.** And guess who they saw for the first time in their lives? the face of Jesus. We talk so often about what we'll do when we get to heaven. Just to be able to see His face. To be able to kneel in front of Him and say: Thank You for going to the cross. Because of that, I'm here. And we'll see His face. We will behold Him, as so many songwriters have said. And the first face they see is the face of Jesus.

I believe the question that Jesus asked them is a question that He would ask each one of us today. Do you believe that I am able to do this? What is the this in your life? Is it a marriage that's on the rocks? It is that you're a prodigal child today? Far away from home, eating pods and thinking of the life you had when you were spiritually connected with God?

Or are you nursing a heart that was disappointed? Something happened that shattered your dreams, and you've carried it every day. I wonder whether that's the 'this' that Jesus is talking about. Do you believe I'm able to do this? Take shattered dreams and make them beautiful again? Or maybe it's a calling on your life that you're saying, "Lord, this is too difficult for me. I just can't do it. That's the 'this' for you that you've been running from Him. And yet, deep in your heart, you know that God is calling you into some kind of very particular ministry.

I wonder whether 'this' is an addiction that you're trying desperately to break in your own strength. And you haven't been successful. "Do you believe," He would ask, "if I am able to do this in your life?"

Jesus invited faith from them. And they believed. They responded to Jesus in faith. And they saw their eyes opened. Jesus honours faith, beloved. And I believe that even today, right now, the question that faces each one of us today is: Do you believe that I'm able to do this in your life? You know the 'this'. But you believe that He, Jesus, has the power, the authority to be able to do it, bring about a change in your life. My prayer would be that you would whisper back to Him: Yes, Lord, yes. I do.

Shall we pray?

I wonder whether the Holy Spirit has highlighted a 'this' for you today, as you've been listening. I wonder whether you said, or whispered, "Yes, Lord." And if you did, or that's your response, I'd like

to pray for you in closing. So would you stand where you are, if you're saying: Here the 'this', Lord, in my life, that I desperately need a touch from you.

Lord Jesus, we come before You today like those blind men, desperate, longing and crying out for a touch. Lord, some of us have followed for a long time, and maybe from far away. But today we draw close to You, and we whisper, "Yes Lord, we believe that You can touch the wounds." We believe that You can touch our blindness and our burdens, our challenges.

Today Lord, we hear You, hear Your question, not as a rebuke, Lord, but as an invitation. And we muster up like faith and say: Yes, Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief. Touch us again. Restore unto us all that has been taken. Open our hearts.

I pray for every person standing here as they bring their 'this' to You. Lord, I pray that Your power would descend upon their hearts and their lives and that You would bring a response that will have them singing in joy and praising Your holy name. We give You thanks in advance for what You are doing, Lord Jesus. And as always, it's in Your name that we pray. Amen.