

## I. Introduction

Good morning! Today we will take a look at the last part of Luke 18. From the context in the gospels, we understand that Jesus and the disciples had been traveling south along the Jordan River, but when they came to the road that led up into the mountains toward Jerusalem, they took it, so they turned west, passing through Jericho. The events we will read about today happen along the road near Jericho.



I think that in the time of Jesus it looked different, but here is a photo of what Jericho looks like today. We can imagine Jesus and the disciples, traveling along the road from the Jordan River to Jericho.



We are studying Luke, but the gospels of Matthew and Mark also record the events described in today's Scripture. Each of the accounts is slightly different, as we would expect from three authors writing independently about the same events. I like the way the account begins in Mark, because Mark tells us more about the feelings of the disciples and the crowds following Jesus.

Take a look at **Mark 10:32**, **"They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him."** The disciples were astonished and the people were afraid. Why? The great miracles that Jesus had been doing would be one reason. But there is another reason. You see, by this time, everyone knew that the Pharisees were planning to kill Jesus. Even so, instead of running away and hiding, Jesus was boldly heading for Jerusalem.

Let's read Luke 18:31-43 and see what happens next.

## II. Scripture Luke 18:31-43 (NIV)

[31] Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. [32] He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. [33] On the third day he will rise again." [34] The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about. [35] 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.

## III. Teaching

Let's go back and look more closely at verse 31. **"Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled."** As He often did, Jesus called Himself, "the Son of Man," a title which reminds us of how Jesus left heaven to come into this world as a human being. And, Jesus told the disciples that everything written about Him by the prophets would be fulfilled. In the verses following, Jesus goes on to explain that He is speaking especially about His death and resurrection. **Verses 32-33, "He will be handed over to the**

**Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”**

Now, if I knew that when I got to Jerusalem, I was going to be mocked, insulted, spit on, flogged, and killed, I would be headed in the opposite direction. But Jesus was determined to accomplish His purpose. Take a look at **Hebrews 12:2**, **“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** Jesus left the perfect peace and joy of heaven and came into this world to walk the long and lonely road to the cross. And as He went to the cross, Jesus was already looking beyond the pain of the cross to a new joy, the joy of providing forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all who believe in Him. Jesus loves us, and He willingly died on the cross for us. No one forced Him to do this; Jesus chose to do it. Jesus knew what was going to happen in Jerusalem, but He went anyway, because He loves us.

This was the plan of God from the very beginning. Do you remember the words of **Matthew 25:34**? **“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”** Jesus, our Lord and King, prepared and planned for our salvation since the time of creation. And then He came into this world and walked the dusty and lonely road to the cross and died for us, because He loves us. He has always loved us, and He always will.

God wanted us to know that this was His plan, so He sent prophets to speak of what was going to happen hundreds of years in advance. The prophets told about Jesus’ death and resurrection in advance, so that we would be able to know for certain that these things are the work of God. Only the Creator God is able to accurately say what will happen hundreds of years ahead of time. He is able to do this because He stands outside of time, seeing all of history, past and future. In **Isaiah 46:9-10**, the Lord God speaks and says, **“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”**

God says, “Remember!” And Jesus said that all of the prophecies about His death and resurrection would be fulfilled. Let’s take a look at a few examples of those prophecies and their fulfillment. We don’t have time today to discuss each prophecy, so I will just read them and you can study them later on your own.

<b>Prophecies about Jesus’ death and resurrection</b>	<b>Old Testament Prophecies (given hundreds of years before Jesus was born)</b>	<b>New Testament Fulfillment</b>
1. Despised and Rejected	Isaiah 53:3, “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”	Matthew 27:30-31, “They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.”
2. Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9, “Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”	Mark 14:10, “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.”
3. Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver	Zechariah 11:12, “I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.	Matthew 26:15, “and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.
4. The Silver was used to Buy a Potter’s Field	Zechariah 11:13, “And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter.”	Matthew 27:6-7, “The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners.”

5. Silent when Accused	Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”	Matthew 26:62-63a “Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent.”
6. Struck and Spit on	Isaiah 50:6 “I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.”	Mark 14:65, “Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.”
7. Crucified with Sinners	Isaiah 53:12 “Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”	Matthew 27:37-38 “Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.”
8. Hands and Feet Pierced	Psalms 22:16 “Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.”	John 20:25 “So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."”
9. Mocked and Insulted	Psalms 22:7-8 “All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ‘He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’”	Matthew 27:42-43 ““He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'””
10. They Cast Lots for His Clothes	Psalms 22:18 “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”	Mark 15:24 “And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.”
11. Buried with the Rich.	Isaiah 53:9 “He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.	Matthew 27:57-60b “As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock.”
12. Rose from the Dead	Psalms 16:10 “because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”	Matthew 28:5-6 “The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

All of these prophecies were written down and recorded, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The prophets wrote these things by the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, and every prophecy was fulfilled according to God’s perfect foreknowledge and plan. These prophecies and their fulfillment are powerful evidence for

the truth of the Bible.

Even Doubting Thomas, the disciple who was slow to believe in the resurrection could not doubt anymore when confronted by the living Jesus and the fulfillment of the prophecies. **John 20:27-31**, Jesus appeared in the room where the disciples were. **"Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."**

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Lord Jesus. But all of these signs have been written down for us so that we also might believe also. And when we believe, Jesus comes and lives in our heart by His Holy Spirit.

In today's Scripture, there was another who believed, even though he had not seen. Mark 10:46 tells us that his name was Bartimaeus. He was blind, but, with the eyes of his heart, Bartimaeus saw far more clearly than most people. He had heard about Jesus and he believed. We know he believed in Jesus because of how he called out to Jesus in **Luke 18:38**, **"He called out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'"** In the time of Jesus, the title, "Son of David," was used to refer to the Messiah, the Savior. In calling out to Jesus with these words, Bartimaeus is declaring his faith in Jesus as his Savior. The crowds urged him to be silent, but he cried out even louder, and Jesus stopped and came to him.

**Luke 18:40-41**, **"Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied."** Bartimaeus was bold and direct in his prayer. He believed in Jesus and he knew that Jesus could restore his sight. He also trusted in the love of Jesus; by faith, he knew that Jesus would hear his request. Jesus saw that Bartimaeus believed in him and Jesus answered him according to that faith. **Luke 18:42-43**, **"Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God."**

#### IV. Conclusion

God was glorified in this miracle and the people saw it and praised God. It was further proof of Jesus' power as God the Son and of His love for all people, even those that society looked down on. Take a look at this painting by Eustache Le Sueur. Can you imagine what Bartimaeus felt like on that day when Jesus granted his request? For many years, he had lived in darkness, unable to see anything. But one day, Jesus came to him and healed him of his blindness and set him free from the darkness, both physical and spiritual.



When Bartimaeus cried out to Him as Lord and Savior, Jesus stopped and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" When we cry out to Jesus, He stops and listens to us also, because He loves us and has compassion on us. When we call out to Jesus and declare in faith that He is Lord and Savior, the crowd around us may rebuke us and try to silence us. But if we continue to cry out in faith, Jesus will stop and hear our request.

The evidence that shows that Jesus is Lord and Savior is sufficient. Bartimaeus believed the testimony of those who had told him about Jesus. Thomas was slow to believe, but when he finally understood who Jesus is, then he cried out, "My Lord and my God." Like Thomas, let's stop doubting and believe. Like Bartimaeus, let us be bold in crying out to Jesus. Cry out to Jesus for salvation and be saved. Pray boldly and He will answer. Trust in Jesus and receive the free gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Let's close for today with **John 8:12**, **"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"** Amen! Let's pray.

#### V. Closing Prayer