

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Bible Study

The Blind Man And The Lame Man

January 2, 2022



A blind man and a lame man were begging on a street and began talking. One asked if the other had collected enough to buy some bread. He hadn't. His friend nodded understandingly as he shook his own empty cup. Then, the blind man shared that he'd overheard a farmer saying his fruit was ready for picking.

"I'd sure like some fruit!" he said, "but, I would not be able to find it."

The lame man said he could steal some for the two of them, if only he had a way of getting there and reaching up to it. Then, the two hatched a plan: The lame man would climb onto the blind man's shoulders. The lame man would be the eyes and the blind man would be the legs. They set off for the orchard.

When the two had stolen as much as they could carry, they sneaked out of the orchard, lame fellow still atop his blind friend. The farmer spied them carrying his fruit and called for the constable. Once in front of the magistrate, the judge said; "I understand the crime, but I'm having difficulty charging the criminal."

He continued; "The blind man could not see what he was doing and the lame man could not have reached the fruit, alone, so neither individual could have stolen the fruit. Put the lame man on the blind man's shoulders and I shall condemn them, together, for this is how they committed the crime."

This story illustrates how so many sins involve **multiple sinners!** Consider a lie; it takes one to tell the lie and one to believe the lie. If not for the liar, the lie would not be told. If not for the believer, the lie would do no harm. Consider the very first such circumstance:

Genesis 3: 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field that the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’ ”

2 The woman answered the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, 3 but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You must not eat of it or touch it, or you will die.’ ”

4 “You will not surely die,” the serpent told her. 5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

The serpent mixed in a little bit of fiction and a little bit of fact. He lied that taking of the fruit would not produce death. He was correct in that it would allow them to know BOTH good and evil. What the serpent presented was TEMPTATION. Had Eve resisted, all human history would be different. Her sin, and her husband’s, sin produced a genetic change in the human creation that has been passed down through each successive generation; sin.

So, had Satan not temped Eve, there would have been no sin. Had Eve turned to God and resisted temptation, there would have been no sin. The sin required TWO actors. (See Bible Study “The Devil Made Me Do It!).

NO sin is carried out alone, they all involve at least two: Gossip, adultery, abortion, etc. In fact, it’s easy to spot the two-party sins; one is usually blaming the other. And, in the Study; “The Devil Made Me Do It” we see that Satan is always involved, but he requires a willing partner. Let’s look at what happened after Adam and Eve had sinned:

Genesis 3: 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where

are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So, we see a triangle of sinners and the finger pointing did not absolve any of them of their sin. God is not only an equal opportunity forgiver; He is an equal opportunity punisher. Can't we just imagine the scene as God is addressing all of them?

Satan: “Most of what I told her was true! Your woman just got greedy”

Eve: “The serpent was right, and that fruit looked soooo GOOD!”

Adam: “Uh...well...uh, I didn't say anything because, well, she's kinda bossy – YOU made her that way!”

How very much like the blind man and the lame man might this be?

Blind man: “I cannot steal fruit! I cannot see. “

Lame man: “I cannot steal fruit! I cannot stand, or walk!”

So, the judge had the lame man put atop the blind man and he condemned them both for the singular crime of theft. So, too, God had to judge the serpent, who deceived, the woman who fell to temptation, and the man who stood by and did nothing to stop it. (see Bible Study; The Gunsmoke Phenomenon. A look at two-party sin.)

One of the things that cripples the growth of the Body of Christ is this notion that, once we are saved, that's it. After that, it's sunshine and lollipops as we dance through the sunny green fields of life. God created every single element of this universe for a purpose, and He has a purpose for each of us. Once we are saved, we are transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We must, then, grow spiritually.

Up until you were born a spiritual being, you were NOT fully of use to God. Now that you are, He has a purpose for you. He has a job for you. If you are of the mind that you're a Christian, and that's enough, you are mistaken.

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

Colossians 2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

And, while it's important for MANY reasons, church attendance is NOT the pinnacle of Christian growth. Being part of a church family avails you to worship, fellowship, education and opportunities for service. But, if you just "show and go," and your life not substantially different from one year to the next, you need to take a close look. Even worse, if you think you've got a handle on religion and you aren't too worried about it, think again.

Matthew 16: 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Consider "...for whoever would save his life will lose it..." This refers to an uncommitted follower, who really does not want to follow at all. Rather, they want to be on the team without having to do the hard work.

John 6: 26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

Jesus was chastising some of those who only followed Him because they had been in the group He had fed. In other words, they were there for the treats, not to work.

How many of us were saved because a youth pastor pursued us? How many were saved because, as a kid, we were attracted to the softball, dodgeball or Frisbee games followed by pizza? We went because we were interested in treats, then realized Jesus wanted us for a higher purpose.

One of YOUR most important jobs, as a Christian is to DISCERN holiness from wickedness; good from evil. If you cannot spot temptation and sin as it comes slithering up to you in the form of false religious teachings, sinful acts accepted by society, or inner urges to please yourself in ways you know are sin....then, you are NOT growing spiritually. You are not doing your job. You are failing as a Christian.

If you fall into sin, and then start pointing the finger, you're not maturing. Until you take full responsibility for the person who cooperated with Satan, and fell to the temptation, you are still immature. You need to grow, spiritually, until you can put those sins at the foot of the cross and walk away from them. You need to mature until you can spot those sins and resist them in the future. If you don't know what I'm talking about, then pay attention:

We're starting a new year....another trip around the sun! January is the month for resolutions. Instead of resolving to do something for yourself, how about resolving to grow in Christ? Instead of stiff-arming those who invite you to Bible study, or to participate in a ministry, how about seeking it out? How about putting aside some of the excuses you use to avoid growing with Jesus and start walking with Him?

I pray you will.

By the way, I mentioned two Bible studies that are on the PCBC website that allow you to dig a bit deeper into what you just read. Have a look at the Bible Q & A section on our home page.

www.PCBChurch.com