

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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VOLUME 37

September 2015

NUMBER 9

As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God. (Luke 18:35-43)

What men can “see” with their ears is magnified when their sight is minimized. What the blind beggar could hear was a crowd going by, signifying some activity that required explanation. When he made inquiry, he was told that “Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.” Immediately, there was a connection made that blind eyes could not see but a heart full of faith could make. Jesus of Nazareth was none other than Jesus, Son of David. His ears gave him this understanding. Faith comes by hearing. This Messianic title began to ring out loudly in the streets of nearby Jericho through the loud petition of this blind beggar. The cry for mercy was strong and continuous...and it would not be silenced. Why was the beggar pleading for mercy with such a passion? Because he knew that Passionate Mercy was passing by...Jesus the Messiah was nearby! The blind man could see with his ears what others could not perceive with their eyes. Faith works that way. Even today.

I am watching events unfold on a global scale in ways that people who study prophecy can barely keep up. And there seems to be a lot of “noise” in the surrounding atmosphere that only makes sense to people with ears to hear. Many voices seem to be saying, *King Jesus is passing by!* Can you hear them? Can you pick these voices out of the intensifying chaotic racket? Amidst the distracting noise and busyness can you detect the message of the word of the Lord? Lately it seems that my Bible is screaming out loud. Can you hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches? Can you hear what the blind man could hear? King Jesus, Lord of Mercy, is nearby. What does this mean to you? Are you in need of mercy? Will you cry out in a crowd? Or would it attract too much attention? Would too many people think something is terribly wrong with you if you loudly ask the Lord for His help?

Some people gain mercy because they ask for it. Some people are so proud they don't think they need it and try to shout down anyone who is asking for it. Don't be silenced in these days. I need mercy as much as I need my next breath. And I will not be cowed into silence. When God is on the move, you can hear the sound before you see the sight. Remember the encounter that the sinful Garden dwellers had with the Lord when sin broke their unhindered communion with God. *They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8)* God makes a sound...some people hide...some people holler for help.

The blind beggar could hear something...the presence of the Lord on a mission of mercy. Can you hear it today? The Lord's presence is not hidden from us unless we are hiding from Him. *Soon and very soon*, the old song says, *We are going to see the King.* God is on the move in our midst. We can hear Him before we can see Him...and like the beggar, faith will give us eyes. Call out for mercy today. Do not be silenced. Come out of your hiding place. King Jesus is passing by.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam