**Luke 18:31-43**

**Following Jesus**

**April 7th, 2019**

1. **Blind Sighted Followers**

Jesus’ disciples were blind to Scriptures’ culminating fulfillment in Jews handing Jesus over to the Gentiles in Jerusalem to be humiliated and killed and subsequently resurrected on the third day.

*It is possible to begin blindly following Jesus, ignorant of the significance of his suffering, death, and vindicating resurrection as the culmination of God’s saving purpose revealed in the Scriptures.*

1. **Sighted Blind Follower**

Through insightful persistent faith in Jesus as Scripture’s Son of David/God (the culmination of God’s saving purpose), the blind beggar overcame erroneous Messianic expectations to be healed and joyfully follow Jesus.

*Through insightful persistent faith in Jesus as Scriptures’ Son of God and culmination of God’s saving purposes, people overcome obstacles, including erroneous beliefs, to be saved to joyfully follow Jesus.*

***Whereas the disciples following Jesus were blind to Jesus’ suffering as fulfillment of God’s Scriptures’ merciful saving purpose, the blind beggar saw and experienced that fulfillment to immediately follow Jesus.***

**Summary: Joyful following of Jesus is dependent on persistent faith that receives him as Scripture’s promised Son of God, the culmination of Scriptures’ revelation of God’s saving purpose for humanity.**

**Questions**

1. What could have blinded the disciples from seeing Jesus’ predicted humiliation, death and resurrection as the culminating fulfillment of the Scriptures?
2. What are some reasons why people start to follow Jesus before they comprehend the true nature of his identify and ministry as revealed by Scriptures?
3. What were your reasons for starting to follow Jesus?
4. What additional essential things have you learned about Jesus since you first made him your primary allegiance that inspires you to persist in joyfully following him?
5. What Scriptural non-negotiables need to be believed in order to be saved and joyfully follow Jesus?
6. The blind beggar would not have been interested in a Messiah that fulfilled the Jewish expectations of his day. Such a Messiah’s coming would not have changed his marginalized position in the community as a blind beggar.
7. Who are the marginalized of our day?
8. What specific things from a scripturally correct portrayal of Jesus as the culmination of God’s saving purpose make Jesus a relevant Messiah to modern day marginalized people?
9. How could we as a church better mirror the Scriptural Jesus to those who are marginalized so that they may believe too?