

3. Good doing is the best evidence of discipleship.

FOURTH SABBATH.

SUBJECT: *Blind Bartimeus*.—Mark 10: 46—52. See the same miracle related in Matt. xx., 29—34, and Luke xviii. 35—43.

Matthew states that two blind men were healed as Jesus was departing from Jericho; Mark says that one blind man was healed; Luke relates that Jesus healed one blind man on entering the city.—The apparent differences are thus explained:—Jesus probably entered Jericho by the same gate through which he also left the city; the gate on the west side. As Jesus was entering, the blind man called for help, was threatened, and restrained. Jesus may have kept him waiting till his return from the city in order to test his faith. Thus the Evangelists record the same event, the one giving the whole story of the miracle in connection with the beginning of it, and the others in connection with the completion of it. "Further, it is not difficult to suppose that in the interval another blind man joined company with Bartimeus, and that each encouraged the other in the louder cry."—(*Lange*.)

V. 26.—There was a great and joyous procession of people going up to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Blind men usually made their living by begging. The blind are very numerous in Palestine, Egypt, and other hot, dusty countries.

47.—Bar-Temæus, (son of Timæus) knew Jesus and gave Him His rightful messianic title.

48.—Such cries on a festal occasion were out of place, the multitude thought, and many tried to hush him.

50.—In his great haste and joy he flung away his garment. 51.—"What will ye?" Jesus knew what Bartimeus and his companion wanted, but He desired to awaken a present feeling of need.

No means are used in working this miracle but the mighty word of Jesus.

1. Many tried to hush the poor blind man when he cried: they came between him and Jesus. Let us not stand between any soul and the Saviour; and let us not allow any to come between us and our Healer.

2. By nature all are spiritually blind. Jesus the Saviour is ever passing by. Apply to Him for sight, healing, complete salvation. He is pledged to hear the cry of faith. He opens the blind eyes, and enables the redeemed sinner to "follow Jesus in the way."

3. "They who received their sight from Christ follow Him in the way. "The loss of physical sight is to man a great distress; but he is not so much troubled about his soul's blindness." "We must not be hindered in our prayers by the devil or the world, by flesh and blood." "Happy he whom nothing restrains in his faith and believing cry."

4. Think of the joy of Bartimeus and his friends: there is joy in Heaven as well as among the Saints on earth over a sinner whose soul-blindness is removed.

Presbytery Minutes.

Presbytery of Halifax.

The Presbytery of Halifax met, by permission of Synod, in St. Andrew's, on 1st July. *Inter alia*, after consultation, it was agreed that the Clerk write to Messrs. Alex. McLeod and James Fitzpatrick continuing them at the stations to which they had been appointed, and giving them the privilege of exchanging as frequently as they may desire.

The Moderator reported the fulfilment of his appointment to Spring Hill for the ordination of the Elders elect, and gave the name of George Fulton as representative Elder. He also reported that Senator McFarlane had intimated to him that the Spring Hill Mining Company had granted the request of the Presbytery and congregation for a site for a Church, which was thankfully accepted. The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. Morrison, of St. John's, as directed, and read Mr. Morrison's reply, thanking the Presbytery for the interest taken in them, and for the supply granted.

The Presbytery met again on the 6th July. The Moderator reported that the Spring Hill people voted unanimously in favour of Union.

It was then unanimously agreed that the remuneration of Catechists be paid at the rate of \$200 and board for the six months of summer. Agreed that Mr. McLeod be appointed to Folley Mountain for three months from the time he was sent there. Also agreed that the Presbytery grant the sum of \$25 to Folley Mountain for the three months, to supplement the sum of \$75 to be raised by the people themselves.

The Moderator asked for an assessor from the Presbytery to enable him to complete his Session, one of the members being from home. The Presbytery granted the request, and appointed J. S. McDonald, Esq.

The Presbytery met again on the 7th, and after the transaction of business, adjourned to meet in St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, on 3rd August, at 3 p. m.

The Presbytery met again on 14th August. *Inter alia*, the following matters were agreed upon:—