**Thesis:** Are you the type of person who has to see something to believe it? As children, our imaginations run wild, allowing us to believe in spectacular tales, legends, and myths as fantasy and reality collide in our growing minds. But for some of us, that changes over time, basing our understanding of the world on what we can see, touch, and feel. Does that make it hard to believe in a God up in heaven? The apostle John begins his epistle of *1 John* by saying, *1:1 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.* Though we may not get to see Jesus now, we have the testimony of faithful men and women who have proclaimed all that they witnessed of Jesus, the visible image of the invisible God. If we allow God to open our hearts to receive his word, we can experience and know him in a very real way, too.

**Introduction:** You’re listening to The Jesus Podcast, a year of stories showcasing the depth of Christ’s love and the glory of God’s truth. I’m \_\_\_\_ your host from Pray.com. Thanks for joining us today! As we watch another miracle unfold, take a second to follow the podcast so you don’t miss an episode.

**Context:** Today’s story picks up right where we left off last time. After Jesus heals Jairus’ daughter, two men begin to follow him and the disciples. Though they can’t see him with their eyes, their hearts have been opened to understand who he was, the Messiah and Healer who could bring sight to their eyes. Wandering through the streets, we’ll find their faith driving them onward to reach their destination. A destination that would change the way they saw the world. Not just with their eyes, but with their entire being. When we encounter Jesus, he changes the way we perceive life around us. Our minds are open to view life through God’s eyes. We see the world as a grand display of God’s glory, his splendor painted across the mountains and skies. We see people as precious creatures made in God’s image. And we see how it all falls under the righteous hand of the King.

**Message:** Not long after Jesus restored Jairus’ daughter to life, news about him spread throughout the region. And naturally, this led to more people who followed him. As was often the case, many of these people were following him in hopes of seeing more miracles. But two men who followed Jesus on this day had hopes of just seeing anything at all. To approach Jesus in a crowd would have been incredibly dangerous for them, with the hustle and bustle, and pushing and shoving of the mobs clawing their way closer to Jesus. But despite the difficulty, the men weren’t going to let this dissuade them from finding a way closer to him. It likely wasn’t easy, having to ask people around them where he was, navigating the city streets while hoping their information wasn’t outdated. But they show us that even when it’s difficult or confusing, we should never stop following Jesus. There are times where we might feel lost in our pursuit, but that should never discourage us from pressing forward. Jesus knew the men were looking for him and he would reveal himself to them. Jesus knows you’re looking for him, too, and he will always reveal himself to you. Continue to seek his face and you will always be rewarded.

Once they find him, they don’t waste any time. Unsure which of the men in the group is the Lord, they cry out for Jesus in a very specific way, shouting, *“Have mercy on us, Son of David!”*

Their cries acknowledge two very important things. First, it shows that they understood that they were sinners and that any act that Jesus performed for them was an act of mercy. An extension of undeserved favor. They didn’t ask Jesus outright for a miracle. And perhaps it shows that their hearts were in the right place. Rather than beginning with a request for healing, they ask for something more important: For mercy. Second, their cry shows that they recognized that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. When they call him the Son of David, they’re referencing a prophetic title that came from the prophecy of the seed of David given in 2 Samuel 7. The Jews had waited for generations for the Messiah, but it was never their expectation that God would send His only Son to take up that title. So while these two blind men may not have known that the Messiah to whom they spoke was also the Son of God, their faith in Jesus as the Messiah was evident, and because of it, their understanding of who he truly was would be illuminated along with their sight.

There were many ideas of what the Messiah would look like when he arrived to free God’s people from their oppression. Many believed he would be a great political leader, ruling with militant power to overthrow Israel’s enemies. This was especially true for the Jews who awaited the Anointed One’s arrival during Jesus’ day. Having endured the heavy boot of the Roman Empire’s rule, they were desperate for freedom from their earthly oppressors. But today’s story presents two men who, in their own physical blindness, were willing to accept that the Messiah had come in a way many hadn’t imagined. Without the ability to see, they couldn’t judge people based on their physical appearance, but perceived others through their words and actions. Perhaps this heightened awareness of a person’s true character helped them to perceive Jesus as the Messiah, despite his common appearance and lack of militant promise. They knew the Messiah was going to heal God’s people and free them with the truth, and that’s exactly what they had heard Jesus was doing. As the seed of David, the Messiah was to be from a royal lineage. But Jesus wasn’t going to establish a kingdom on this earth. His kingdom was of a different kind. A heavenly kingdom that was already forming through faith in the King of heaven.

In *Luke 17*, Jesus is asked by a group of Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come. He responds by saying, *“The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, 21 nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”*

Just like these men that cried out for the Son of David, we must believe that this King is capable of anything. Once off the streets and in the quietness of the men’s home, Jesus asks them if they believe he could make them well. The men didn’t know if Jesus would, but in faith, they believed he could. It was this faith that opened the door of not only their eyes to see the world around them, but of their hearts to receive Jesus as the Messiah. The faith we place in Jesus has unlimited transformative potential. Through Christ, anything is possible if we believe in his abilities. Sometimes we might limit our belief in God because we don’t want to be disappointed if something doesn’t go the way we planned or hoped. But the question Jesus asked the men wasn’t if they believed Jesus would heal them, only if they believed he could heal them. This was of far more value. If we believe Jesus can do anything, and believe him to be the good King from the line of David, then we can trust that he will do what is best. We can follow him and submit to his mighty reign from his heavenly throne. So before we ask God if he’s willing to do something, it might be better to start with asking ourselves if we truly believe he’s able to do anything.

Once the men have their sight restored, Jesus tells them not to tell anyone knowing that once word got out, the crowds would only grow more, just as they had after word of his other miracles spread. But in the same pattern, it wasn’t long before these men were sharing the good news of what had happened to them and making much of the name of Jesus in their community. It’s hard to keep in the wonderful works of God in our lives, and we should be thankful that Jesus never tells us to. Unlike the recipients of God’s grace during Jesus’ earthly ministry, there will never be a time that God calls us to keep his works silent. We have been given not only the privilege, but the call, to spread the news of his good works to the people around us. As Christ opens your heart to see him as the righteous King of heaven, tell the world of the wonderful works he has done!