

▼ **Jesus Heals A Blind Beggar**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 31, 2025

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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: [Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG](mailto:Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG)
- We are finishing Luke 18.
- We will have life group after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Video**

- [Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking | Chase Freedom Unlimited](#) - YouTube (00:00:30)
- [Talking About Making Disciples](#) - YouTube (00:00:25)

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer

▼ **Overview**

▼ **In today's message we will do the following:**

- Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- ▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39
- Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage - Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage - Luke 18:35-43
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.

## ▼ Opening Material

### ▼ Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

#### ▼ Principal Elements

- 1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

#### ▼ Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- ▼ According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
  - “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”

### ▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39 - Spoken to Jews

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- **Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles**

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

- ▼ **Welcome to Luke!**

- ▼ Video

- [Bible Project: Luke 1-9](#) - YouTube (00:08:16)
- [Bible Project: Luke 10-24](#) - YouTube (00:07:48)
- Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- ▼ **Embrace Jesus’ Mission**

- ▼ **Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord’s Spirit Is Upon Me**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- ▶ Setting the Stage

- ▼ **Feed on the Life of Jesus**

- **Are you “worded up”?**

- **Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17**
- **Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?**
- ▼ **What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?**
  - The Gospel of John in August (8/1 – 8/21)
  - The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 - 9/28)
  - The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 – 10/16)
  - The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 – 11/24)
  - The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)
- ▼ **For August this means:**
  - No reading in John on August 30 (yesterday).
  - No reading in John on August 31 (today).
  - Read Matthew 1 on September 1 (tomorrow).
  - etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**
- ▼ **Ask yourself the following questions:**
  - What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
  - What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
  - What did I find challenging about this chapter?
  - What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
  - Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?
- ▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

  - Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
  - Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
  - Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
  - Read and listen to God's Word in community!

## ▼ Luke 18:35-43

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, **“What do you want me to do for you?”**

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

Jesus said to him, **“Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”** Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

## ▼ Parallel / Related Passages

### • Matthew 20:29-34

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

Jesus stopped and called them. **“What do you want me to do for you?”** he asked.

“Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

### • Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, **“Call him.”**

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

**“What do you want me to do for you?”** Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

**“Go,”** said Jesus, **“your faith has healed you.”** Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

## ▼ Jesus heals a blind beggar.

### ▼ Narrative - Luke 18:35-43

- Jesus is approaching Jericho. This will be his last trip through Jericho.
- A blind beggar sitting by the roadside learns that Jesus is passing by and calls out for mercy.
- The people leading the crowd rebuke him, but he persists.
- Jesus asks the man what he wants. He tells Jesus that he wants to see.

- Jesus heals him and the man follows Jesus praising God.

▼ Observations / Background

- Luke and Mark report a single blind beggar. Matthew reports two.
- Luke and Mark record Jesus approaching Jericho. Matthew record Jesus leaving.
- Only Mark provides a name: Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus).
- The beggar refers to Jesus as “Son of David” – a messianic title.
- Jesus tells the beggar that his faith has healed (saved) him.

▼ Questions

- How long has this man been blind?
- How is he still alive? How does he eat? How does he care for himself?
- Where is Jericho? How often has Jesus been through Jericho before?
- What does he know about Jesus?

▼ Lessons

- How do we respond when Jesus “passes by”?

▼ Put yourself in this story as one or more of the following:

- Jesus
- the people leading the procession
- the rest of the crowd
- the people who bring the man to Jesus
- the blind beggar
- Luke
- With whom do you identify the most?

▼ **Life Group**

▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

- **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**

- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

▼ **Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.**

▼ What level are you at with these?

- Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
  - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**





# Jesus Heals A Blind Beggar

Sunday August 31, 2025



# Welcome!



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# Thoughts

- Talkin' Bout Cashbacking
- Talkin' Bout Making Disciples



# Talkin' Bout Cashbacking





# Talkin' Bout Making Disciples





# Thoughts (continued)

- Talkin' Bout Cashbacking
- Talkin' Bout Making Disciples
- Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:
  - the apostles' teaching
  - fellowship
  - the breaking of bread
  - prayer



# Overview

In today's message we will do the following:

- Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- Why are we here?
- Review passage - Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage - Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage - Luke 18:35-43
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.



# Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 1 of 2

Principal Elements (sounds good, but this is NOT Christianity):

1. A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.



# Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 2 of 2



## Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
- “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”



# Why are we here?

Acts 2:36-39 – Spoken to Jews

Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



# Acts 2:36-39 – Spoken to Jews



“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”



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“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”



# Welcome to Luke!



- Video: Bible Project: Luke 1-9
- Video: Bible Project: Luke 10-24
- Luke 1:1-4 – Luke’s Introduction
- Luke 4:14-21 – Embrace Jesus’ Mission



# Bible Project: Luke – Part 1 of 2





# Bible Project: Luke – Part 2 of 2





# Luke 1:1-4 – Luke’s Introduction



Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



# Embrace Jesus' Mission: Luke 4:14-21



Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

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Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

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- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)



For August this means:

- No reading in John on August 30 (yesterday).
- No reading in John on August 31 (today).
- Read Matthew 1 on September 1 (tomorrow).
- etc.



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)



As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
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- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
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# Luke 18:35-43 (NIV)



As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

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Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,

**“What do you want me to do for you?”**

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

Jesus said to him, **“Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”** Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.



# Matthew 20:29-34 (NIV)



As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

Jesus stopped and called them. **“What do you want me to do for you?”** he asked.

“Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

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# Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)



Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

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# Narrative – Luke 18:35-43



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- Questions
  - How long has this man been blind?
  - How is he still alive? How does he eat? How does he care for himself?
  - Where is Jericho? How often has Jesus been through Jericho before?
  - What does he know about Jesus?



# Lessons

How do we respond when Jesus “passes by”?

- Put yourself in this story as one or more of the following:
  - Jesus
  - the people leading the procession
  - the rest of the crowd
  - the people who bring the man to Jesus
  - the blind beggar
  - Luke
- With whom do you identify the most?



# Life Groups



**Word** - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

**Witness** (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
  - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
  - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.



# Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service August 24, 2025
- Following Jesus Class Fri (8/29) 5pm & 6pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service August 31, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/3) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) September 7, 2025
- Sunday Connection September 7, 2025 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/10) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom



# Life Groups



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# Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups