



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Followers!

Matthew 20:29-34

Message #57 of 80 – S1092

Sermon given on April 14, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Followers!

Matthew 20:29-34

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 20**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Followers!**
- For the last few messages Jesus has been making His way to Jerusalem where He will keep His appointment on the cross.
- He is not alone on this journey.
- Of course, the disciples are with Him.
- There is also a multitude following Jesus to Jerusalem.
- It is almost time for Passover and many people make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to participate in that feast.
- Last time, Jesus took His disciples aside to remind them why they were going to Jerusalem.
- **Matthew 20:18-19**
- And then Jesus made the counter-intuitive declaration about His purpose for being on the earth.
- **Matthew 20:28**
- And then Jesus gets back on the road and headed to Jerusalem.
- **Matthew 20:29-30**
- Jericho is about 15 miles east of Jerusalem.
- These two men had probably heard about Jesus.
- I am sure many people had shared stories of Jesus healing lepers and every disease and casting out of demons, even raising the dead.
- And I am sure someone suggested Jesus could heal them of their blindness like He had done many times for others.
- Why would they ask for mercy?
- Turn to **John 9**.

- The simplest view of mercy is not getting what you deserve.
- They believed blindness was a judgment from God.
- It was a common belief that an ailment like blindness was brought on by sin.
- They believed blindness was a judgment from God.
- In their view, if you are in a right relationship with God, He blesses you.
- Jesus dealt with this wrong theology in another healing.
- **John 9:1-5**
- Bad things happen to both good people and bad, to the wicked and to the righteous.
- Turn back to **Matthew 20**.
- “Son of David” – Messianic title.
- Many among the multitudes believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ.
- Unfortunately, their doctrine about the Christ was established by the religious leaders of their time.
- They were expecting the Messiah to deliver them from their earthly enemies, the Romans, just like King David did with his enemies.
- Right now, these two men had more pressing needs than to be delivered from the oppression of the Romans.
- And they believe Jesus is the answer!
- **Matthew 20:31**
- This great multitude is following Jesus as He heads to Jerusalem.
- Why did the crowd warn the blind men?
- Jesus had just taken the disciples aside to tell them He had not come to be served but to serve as a ransom for many.
- The multitudes were looking for the Messiah-King, not the Servant-King.
- They wanted a Christ who would save them from their enemies, not one who would suffer and die to pay for their sins.
- In their view Jesus had more important things to do that deal with two blind men.

- They are following Jesus, but are they following Him for the right reasons? Turn to **John 6**
 - In a couple of days, they are going to be a part of the crowd that will praise Him in the triumphal entry.
 - But then He will be arrested and falsely accused and turned over to the Romans.
 - How many of them will be in the crowd that calls out “Crucify Him”?
 - They were following an idea of the Christ they wanted but not the Christ who was Jesus.
 - The multitude was following Jesus but only because they thought He was going the way they wanted to go.
 - As soon as the path turned, they would turn away from Him. Jesus had already experienced that.
 - **John 6:60-66**
 - There are churches filled with people who are following a Christ of their own making and design.
 - Sadly, that Christ can do nothing for them. He cannot help or save them. Turn back to **Matthew 20**
 - Only the Christ who is can save us.
 - Thankfully, we have God’s Word, God’s Spirit, and God’s people to help us to know the Christ who is.
 - It is too important to not be certain (**2 Peter 1:10-11**).
- Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- If we find ourselves going along with the multitude, we should pause and ask God if we are going in the right direction.
 - The blind men would not be deterred.
 - They knew what they wanted, and they believed Jesus could give it to them.
 - This reminds me of one of the key components of prayer is perseverance.
 - If you believe God can give you what you need, keep asking until He gives it to you or until He tells you to stop praying about it (**Matthew 7:7-8**).

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- Ask, seek, and knock are in the form where they can be interpreted ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking and knock and keep on knocking.
- These two guys are doing in the physical world what we ought to do in the spiritual.
- Believe that Jesus can and keep going to Him until He does.
- **Matthew 20:32**
- Why did Jesus ask this question?
- It would have been obvious that they were blind.
- God always knows what we need.
- Still, He wants us to come to Him and ask. It is an act of humility and faith.
- Jesus is days away from laying down His life to pay for the sins of the whole world.
- For three years He has been healing, teaching, and working miracles, sometimes to the point of exhaustion.
- It would make perfect sense for Jesus to simply keep on walking.
- But that is not who Jesus was.
- In the last message Jesus reminded His disciples that He had come to serve, not just them, but everyone.
- Jesus stood still and asked the two blind men, ‘How can I serve you?’
- If we are to be like Christ, we must be willing to serve others.
- And that is not just when it is convenient.
- Truly serving Christ is often inconvenient or uncomfortable.
- Every time we catch ourselves feeling uncomfortable or inconvenienced about serving others, we should remind ourselves that it was pretty inconvenient for Jesus to leave heaven to come down to this earth, and it was pretty uncomfortable for Him to die on the cross.
- We should be willing to experience a little inconvenience and discomfort in the name of Christ.
- Then they confess their need to Christ.
- **Matthew 20:33-34**

- This is a confession that they believed Jesus could heal their blindness.
- Even though these two guys are physically blind, they see Jesus for who He really is, unlike most of the multitude.
- Why did Jesus touch their eyes?
- He had healed other people without touching them.
- It is interesting that Jesus did not seem to follow any pattern or formula when He healed.
- This is probably because humans would have tried to imitate the formula and not depend upon the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus heals these two men, and their response is to follow Jesus.
- We are going to partake in Communion this morning.
- It is a time to remind ourselves what Jesus did for us.
- In many ways we were like these blind men.
- Every Christian before Christ was hopeless and helpless to do anything about it.
- But then at some point we heard about Jesus and had enough faith to be healed.
- Take a few moments and reflect upon what Jesus saved you from.
- And then think about how you have responded to Christ's mercy.
- The two blind men followed Jesus.
- How are you doing at following Jesus?
- Let the Spirit minister to your heart about that.
- Let's reflect upon those things and then I will pray, and we will partake in Communion together.
- **Pray! Communion!** Worship Team plays the last song!