

Matthew 20:29-34 - The King's Followers!

Scriptures:

29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great

G1607 -

Notes:
Jericho is about 15 miles east of
Jerusalem.

multitude followed Him.

Scriptures:

Matthew 15:21-22 - Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

³⁰ And behold, two blind men sitting by the

road, when they heard that Jesus was

passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on

us, O Lord, Son of David!"

G2962 - κύριος
(kyrios) -
supernatural
master over all. -

G1653 – "to show
mercy v. — to show
leniency and
compassion toward
something or
someone."

Notes:

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 that Jesus could heal them of their blindness like He had done many times for others. Jesus was passing by, and they may have felt they wouldn't have another opportunity. The time to reach out to Jesus was right now!

Why would they ask for mercy? The simplest view of mercy is not getting what you deserve. 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.

"O Lord, Son of David" - The Canaanite woman in ([Matthew 15:21-22](#)) used the same title for Jesus. Two blind men in Matthew 9:27 referred to Jesus as Son of David. With the exception of Peter's declaration, this is the greatest profession of faith in Matthew's gospel.

"Lord" – has the sense of ruler, master, one who exercises authority over others.

"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.

Scriptures:

John 6:60-66 -

Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

64 But there are some of you who do not believe."

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

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; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

31 Then the multitude warned them that they

G2008 – "to reprove v. — to admonish or warn forcefully (as expressing strong disapproval)."

should be quiet; but they cried out all the

more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son

of David!"

Notes:

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.

The multitude may have numbered into the thousands. They are following Jesus, but are they following Him for the right reasons? 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 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. 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](#)).

If we find ourselves going along with the multitude, we should pause and ask God if we are going in the right direction. There are multitudes today who are following the right Jesus but doing it the wrong way.

The blind men would be deterred. They knew what they wanted, and they believed Jesus could give it to them. 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, 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.

Scriptures:

32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and

said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

33 They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes

may be opened.”

G455 -

Notes:

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. The multitudes are mostly blind, but the two blind men can see Jesus.

Scriptures:

34 So Jesus had compassion and touched

G4697 – “to be deeply moved (bowels)
v. — to be affected deeply in one’s
inner being, especially in that aspect
(the bowels) characterized by sympathy
and compassion.”

G680 -

Notes:

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.

their eyes. And immediately their eyes

received sight, and they followed Him.

G308 -

G190 -

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