

# “And The Blind Will See”

## Matthew 20:29-34

Message by Michael J. Barnard

September 18, 2022

**Teaching Aim:** To explore the circumstances surrounding the healing of the two blind men at Jericho. To see how Jesus responded to the faith and persistent cries of these men. To realize apart from the compassionate touch of Jesus on our lives through regeneration, none of us would see spiritually; we would all remain in spiritual darkness.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: Two blind men come to realize Jesus was passing through (Matt. 20:29-30)**

1. As we come to our passage today, we find Jesus in route to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Festival, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Firstfruits. More importantly, Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to die on the cross for our sins. What ancient city do we find Jesus going through in **verse 29**? What are some interesting facts about this city that you can discover in a Bible Dictionary? (You may also search online.)
  
2. What appears to be a contradiction in **Matt. 20:29**; **Mark 10:46**; and **Luke 18:35**? How many Jericho’s were there in the days of Jesus? Why? (See Commentaries) What is one possible explanation for the differing accounts?
  
3. Who did Jesus run into as He walked along the main road (**vs. 30**)? How many blind men are mentioned in Matthew’s account (**vs. 30**)? How many blind men are mentioned in Mark and Luke’s accounts? (See **Mark 10:46**; **Luke 18:35**) Why the difference? It is possible the one man mentioned in Mark and Luke’s accounts was the more vocal of the two? According to Mark, what was the name of this individual?
  
4. Many blind people went to Jericho in those days; the region was a large producer of balsam, a plant thought to be beneficial in the healing of eye diseases. Why do you think the two blind men were forced to beg along the roadside (**vs. 30**)? What made this one of the best times of the year for begging?

5. What, if any, significance was there in the men calling Jesus, “*O Lord*” and “*Son of David!*” (**vs. 30**)? (See **2 Sam. 7:11b-14a**) What can we learn about the identity of “*the Son of David*” from **Heb. 1:1-5**?
  
6. How was the response of Jesus different when a Gentile Syrophenician woman had earlier called Him “*Son of David?*” Why? (See **Matt. 15:21-23a**) What qualities in this woman led Jesus to answer her request? How can this characteristic be beneficial to us today in our prayer life? What made this request from the blind men at Jericho different from that of the Syrophenician woman living in the Tyre/Sidon region? Why was Jesus more likely to respond to the blind men’s request in Jericho than to this woman?
  
7. How is the incident found in **Matt. 9:27-31** similar to the incident in **Matt. 20:29-30**? How is it different? What happened in both cases?

## **Part II: The blind men see spiritually (Matt. 20:31)**

1. As the blind men sat by the roadside, they could hear the excitement of the approaching crowd. According to **Luke 18:36-38**, what happened next?
  
2. How did this crowd of so-called “*religious people*” react to the pleas of the two needy men (**vs. 31**)? Are religious people still guilty of doing the same today? Whose cries do “*religious*” people most often ignore today? Why?
  
3. Why do you think more churches don’t place a higher priority on assisting the poor and needy? What are some ways that our church is assisting the needy today? What is the roll of the deacons? (Note: Look up “*deacons*” on our website at [shorelinecc.us](http://shorelinecc.us) to see what they do.) What can you do individually to help the poor and needy in our community?

4. Although the crowds told them to be quiet, what did the men persist in doing (**vs. 31**)? Why? According to **Luke 18:40-41**, what happened next?

### **Part III: Jesus had compassion on the men and healed them (Matt. 20:32-33)**

1. Keep in mind that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem to be crucified, he was to die a horrible death on the cross and He knew it. What did Jesus do when He heard the desperate pleas of these blind men (**vs. 32**)? According to **Luke 18:42**, what did Jesus say their cries were a manifestation of? What can we learn about our own prayer life from the example of these two men?
2. What did Jesus do as He heard the men calling to Him using the special messianic title of "*Son of David*" (**vs. 32**)? Do you find it strange that these two blind men could see that Jesus was "*the Son of David*" while multitudes of people who could see physically did not, they were blind spiritually? What are some ways that you've seen God bless those with physical and mental handicaps today? How is Joni Eareckson Tada a great example of this? (Search online)
3. According to **Mark 10:49b-50**, what did the people in the crowd do once Jesus responded to the men? What unusual question did Jesus ask the blind men (**vs. 32**)? What makes this question so unusual? What did Jesus require of the men?
4. What did the two blind men request from Jesus (**vs. 33**)? How did Jesus respond to their passionate pleas? In what way is the healing of the two blind men a picture of our salvation today? (See **Eph. 2:1-9**) According to Jesus in **John 3:3,5**, what prerequisite is required for us to be able to so much as see the kingdom of God? How has Jesus drastically changed your life since coming to faith in Him?
5. According to **Luke 18:42-43**, what happened as a result of the miraculous healing of these two men? Are you still glorifying God and giving Him praise for the miracle He has done in your life? What are some ways that you show your appreciation to God?

6. What contrasts do you see between “*the rich young ruler*” in **Matt. 19:16-26** and “*the two blind men*” in **Matt. 20:29-34**? Why do you think it is so difficult for the rich to go to heaven?
7. We never know how many more opportunities we will have to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord before we die. On this day the two blind men did the right thing by crying out to Jesus, Jesus responded and healed them. Did Jesus ever pass that way again or was this His final journey through Jericho before the cross?
8. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sin and receive Him in prayer before it is too late? If you are a Christian and you have lost your first love for Jesus, why not repent and turn back to Him right now? (See **Rev. 2:4-5**)

**MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- In New Testament days there were two Jericho’s, the old city and a new one built by Herod the Great; this likely explains the different descriptions in the synoptic gospels.
- Great multitudes were with Jesus as the crowd headed towards Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Festival, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits.
- Mark and Luke speak of one blind man, but Matthew speaks of two: apparently Mark and Luke focus on Bartimaeus, the more vocal of the two.
- Though physically blind, these men could see that Jesus was the Son of David, the Jewish Messiah.
- As busy and preoccupied as Jesus was, He took compassion on these two men and opened their eyes physically so that they could see both physically and spiritually.
- In gratitude, the men followed Jesus as He headed towards the cross in Jerusalem.