

# Luke 18:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

## Analysis

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**As he was come nigh unto Jericho** (ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἰεριχὼ, en tō engizein auton eis Ierichō)—Jericho, seventeen miles from Jerusalem, was the final stop before the arduous ascent. This sets the miracle just before Passion Week, creating theological symmetry: Jesus opens blind eyes before Jerusalem's leaders close theirs to His identity.

**A certain blind man sat by the way side begging** (τυφλός τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν ἐπαίτων, typhlos tis ekathēto para tēn hodon epaitōn)—Typhlos (blind) describes both physical and spiritual condition. The imperfect tense ekathēto (he was sitting) suggests habitual, daily begging—this was his permanent station. Para tēn hodon (beside the road) positions him at the margins, literally and socially. Begging (epaitōn) was the only livelihood for disabled persons in antiquity. Mark and Matthew name him Bartimaeus; Luke's focus on anonymity emphasizes representative significance—he stands for all who sit in darkness awaiting the Light.

## Historical Context

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Jericho's roads saw heavy Passover traffic as pilgrims journeyed to Jerusalem, making it a prime begging location. Blindness often resulted from disease, injury, or birth defects, with no medical remedy. The disabled were excluded from Temple service (Leviticus 21:18), reinforcing social marginalization.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does physical blindness in Scripture often symbolize spiritual blindness, and who are today's spiritually blind?
2. What does the blind man's roadside position teach about meeting people where they are in their need?
3. How does Jesus's attention to a nameless beggar demonstrate the Kingdom's reversal of social hierarchies?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐγένετο	δὲ	ἐν	τῷ	ἐγγίζειν	αὐτὸν	εἰς	Ἱεριχὼ
it came to pass	And	that as	G3588	was come nigh	he	unto	Jericho
G1096	G1161	G1722		G1448	G846	G1519	G2410
τυφλός	τις	ἐκάθητο	παρὰ	τὴν	ὁδὸν	προσaiτῶν·	
blind man	a certain	sat	by	G3588	the way side	begging	
G5185	G5100	G2521	G3844		G3598	G4319	

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 9:8** (Parallel theme): The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

**1 Samuel 2:8** (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them

inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

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