

Luke 18:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

Analysis

Hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant (ἀκούσας ὅχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη τοῦτο, akousas ochlou diaporeuomenou epynthaneto ti eiē touto)—Blindness heightens hearing; the beggar detects unusual commotion. The verb diaporeuomai (to pass through, travel past) in participle form emphasizes movement's immediacy—this is his moment. Epynthaneto (he was inquiring, asking repeatedly) suggests persistent questions: Why this crowd? Who comes?

The phrase **what it meant** (τί εἴη τοῦτο, ti eiē touto) uses the optative mood, expressing deliberative questioning. He senses something significant is happening—Passover pilgrims were common, but this crowd sounds different. His question demonstrates spiritual alertness despite physical blindness. Unlike the seeing disciples who understand 'none of these things' (v. 34), this blind man will perceive Jesus's identity with theological precision.

Historical Context

Blind beggars relied on auditory cues to identify potential benefactors. A large, excited crowd suggested someone important—perhaps a wealthy patron or popular teacher. The beggar's question shows strategic thinking: knowing who passed might inform his begging appeal.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual alertness often compensate for other deficiencies, whether physical or social?
2. What 'sounds' or spiritual stirrings in your life have prompted you to ask, 'What does this mean?'
3. How does the beggar's curiosity model the seeking heart that recognizes divine opportunity?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσας δὲ ὡχλού διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί^{τί}
hearing And the multitude pass by he asked what
G191 G1161 G3793 G1279 G4441 G5101

εἴη τοῦτο
meant it
G1498 G5124

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