

Luke 18:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

Analysis

He cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me (ἐβόησεν λέγων, Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυίδ, ἐλέησόν με, eboēsen legōn, Iēsou huie Daud, eleēson me)—Boaō (to cry out, shout) suggests loud, desperate calling. The blind man's theological confession is stunning: **Son of David** (υἱὲ Δαυίδ) was a Messianic title rooted in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Isaiah 11:1-10. He recognizes what seeing religious leaders refuse to acknowledge—Jesus is the promised Davidic King.

Have mercy on me (ἐλέησόν με)—the aorist imperative eleēson demands immediate action. Eleos (mercy, compassion) is covenant language; the beggar appeals not to casual charity but to Messiah's divine obligation to restore Israel's broken ones. His cry echoes Psalm 6:2, 41:4, 51:1—the lament tradition where sufferers claim God's hesed (steadfast love). Unlike the rich ruler who addressed Jesus as 'Good Master' but walked away (18:18-23), this poor beggar calls Him 'Son of David' and won't be silenced.

Historical Context

Messianic expectation was intense in first-century Judaism, with various claimants and movements. The 'Son of David' title carried political danger—acknowledging Jesus as such could be seen as seditious against Rome. The beggar's public confession thus carries risk, but desperation overcomes caution.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the blind beggar's confession surpass that of the seeing, educated religious leaders in theological insight?
2. What does crying out for mercy rather than demanding rights teach about approaching God?
3. When have you felt desperate enough to risk public embarrassment to get Jesus's attention?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐβόησεν	λέγων,	Ἰησοῦ	υἱὲ	Δαβίδ,	ἐλέησόν	με
And	he cried	saying	Jesus	thou Son	of David	have mercy	on me
G2532	G994	G3004	G2424	G5207	G1138	G1653	G3165

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:27 (Grace): And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.

Luke 18:39 (Grace): And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

Matthew 15:22 (Grace): And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Romans 1:3 (References Jesus): Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

