

Luke 18:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

Analysis

What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? (Τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; *Ti soi theleis poiēsō?*)—Jesus's question seems obvious—a blind beggar wants sight. But *thelō* (to will, desire) requires articulation of desire, transforming vague hope into specific faith-request. The question dignifies the man: Jesus doesn't presume but asks, treating him as person with agency, not object of pity. This echoes God's question to Solomon (1 Kings 3:5: 'Ask what I shall give thee').

And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight (ο δὲ εἶπεν, Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω, *ho de eipen, Kyrie, hina anablepsō*)—note the title shift: 'Son of David' (v. 38) becomes **Lord** (Κύριε, *Kyrie*), acknowledging divine authority. *Anablepō* (to look up, see again, recover sight) in the aorist subjunctive expresses purpose: 'in order that I may see.' The verb suggests both physical healing and spiritual enlightenment—he wants to see Jesus, not just see generally. His request is focused, faithful, and complete.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean culture valued honor and shame; being asked rather than commanded was honorific. Jesus's question elevates the beggar from object to subject, from passive recipient to active participant in his healing. This dignifying approach contrasts sharply with patronizing charity that strips recipients of agency.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus require us to articulate specific requests rather than assuming He knows our needs?
2. How does the progression from 'Son of David' to 'Lord' reflect deepening faith through encounter with Jesus?
3. What does 'receiving sight' symbolize beyond physical healing for those who encounter Christ?

Interlinear Text

λέγων, Τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω ὁ δὲ εἶπεν
Saying What unto thee wilt thou that I shall do G3588 And he said
G3004 G5101 G4671 G2309 G4160 G1161 G2036

Κύριε ἵνα ἀναβλέψω
Lord that I may receive my sight
G2962 G2443 G308

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:25 (Parallel theme): But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Philippians 4:6 (Parallel theme): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.