

Mark 10:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

Analysis

And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called (στὰς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν Φωνήσατε αὐτόν, stas ho Iēsous eipen Phōnēsate auton). The participle στὰς (stas, "standing still") indicates Jesus stopped His journey—the same Jesus who "resolutely set His face toward Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), determined to reach the cross, pauses for one blind beggar. This demonstrates Jesus' compassion and accessibility despite His mission's cosmic importance.

The verb Φωνήσατε (Phōnēsate, "call him") is an imperative—Jesus commands the very crowd that tried to silence Bartimaeus to now summon him. The same people who rebuked him must now reverse course and encourage him. This reversal illustrates how Jesus elevates the lowly and humbles the proud.

And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee (θάρσει, ἔγειρε, φωνεῖ σε, tharsei, egeire, phōnei se). The imperative θάρσει (tharsei, "take courage, be confident") appears throughout the Gospels when Jesus addresses fear or distress (Matthew 9:2, 22; 14:27). The verb ἔγειρε (egeire, "rise, get up") is the same word used for resurrection—Bartimaeus's rising from his begging position symbolizes resurrection from spiritual death to new life.

Historical Context

Jesus' willingness to stop for a beggar violated social expectations. Important teachers and leaders typically ignored lower-class individuals, especially beggars. The crowd's change from silencing to summoning Bartimaeus reflects recognition that Jesus operates by different values—He welcomes those society dismisses. This scene anticipates Jesus' teaching that the last will be first and first will be last (Matthew 20:16).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus stopping His journey to the cross for one beggar reveal about His heart for individuals despite the cosmic scope of His mission?
2. How does Jesus commanding the crowd to call Bartimaeus challenge us when we've been obstacles rather than bridges to people seeking Jesus?
3. Who have you dismissed, ignored, or considered 'inconvenient' whom Jesus might be calling you to welcome and encourage?

Interlinear Text

καὶ στὰς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ φωνεῖ καὶ
And stood still G3588 Jesus and commanded him he calleth And
G2532 G2476 G2424 G2036 G846 G5455 G2532
φωνεῖ τὸν τυφλὸν λέγοντες αὐτῷ Θάρσει
he calleth G3588 the blind man saying him Be of good comfort
G5455 G5185 G3004 G846 G2293
ἔγειραι, φωνεῖ σε
rise he calleth thee
G1453 G5455 G4571

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 86:15 (Parallel theme): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

John 11:28 (Parallel theme): And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

Luke 18:40 (References Jesus): And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,