

Matthew 20:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

Analysis

Two blind men sitting by the way side (δύο τυφλοὶ καθήμενοι παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν)—The *typhloὶ* (blind men) represent humanity's spiritual condition; *kathēmenoi* (sitting) suggests helpless resignation to their state. Their roadside position was strategic for begging from pilgrims. **When they heard that Jesus passed by** (ἀκούσαντες ὅτι Ἰησοῦς παράγει)—Hearing, *akousantes*, precedes seeing; faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17).

Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David (Ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, κύριε νιὸς Δαυίδ)—Their cry employs the Messianic title *huios Dauid* (Son of David), acknowledging Jesus as the promised heir to David's throne. 'Lord' (*kyrie*) can mean 'sir' or 'master,' but combined with 'Son of David' indicates Messianic recognition. Ironically, blind men see what sighted disciples miss: Jesus's true identity. Their persistent faith contrasts sharply with the disciples' ambitious blindness in verses 20-24.

Historical Context

Blindness was common in the ancient Near East due to untreated infections, trachoma, and glaucoma. Blind beggars positioned themselves at city gates and along pilgrimage routes for maximum alms. The Messianic title 'Son of David' reflected Jewish expectation based on 2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 9:6-7, and

Jeremiah 23:5-6. Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46) was one of these two men, suggesting his later prominence in the early church.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why can blind beggars see Jesus's true identity while the sighted disciples remain blind to it?
2. What does their persistent crying out despite opposition teach about the nature of saving faith?
3. How does the title 'Son of David' reflect both correct theology and potentially misguided political expectations?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οἴδού, δύο τυφλοὶ καθήμενοι παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν,
And behold two blind men sitting side G3588 by the way
G2532 G2400 G1417 G5185 G2521 G3844 G3598

ἀκούσαντες ὅτι Ἰησοῦς παράγει ἔκραξαν λέγοντες,
when they heard that Jesus passed by cried out saying
G191 G3754 G2424 G3855 G2896 G3004

Ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, κύριε, νιὸς Δαβίδ
Have mercy on us O Lord thou Son of David
G1653 G2248 G2962 G5207 G1138

Additional Cross-References

Mark 10:46 (Parallel theme): And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.

Matthew 21:14 (Parallel theme): And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

Matthew 22:42 (References David): Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.

Matthew 21:9 (References Lord): And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

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