

# Matthew 20:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

## Analysis

**And the multitude rebuked them** (οἱ δὲ ὄχλος ἐπετίμησεν αὐτοῖς)—The verb *epetimēsen* (rebuked) carries strong censure; the crowd actively silenced the blind men, considering their cries inappropriate or annoying. Religious crowds often obstruct rather than assist those seeking Jesus. **Because they should hold their peace** (ἴνα σιωπήσωσιν)—The purpose clause reveals the crowd's intent to silence worship that inconvenienced them.

**But they cried the more** (οἱ δὲ μεῖζον ἔκραξαν)—The comparative adverb *meizon* (the more, greater) shows intensified desperation. Opposition increased their urgency rather than silencing them—genuine faith persists despite social pressure. Their repeated cry, **Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David**, demonstrates that true worshipers cannot be quieted by religious gatekeepers. This echoes the Canaanite woman's persistent faith despite initial dismissal (Matthew 15:21-28).

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern crowds viewed interruptions of important people as presumptuous, especially by marginalized beggars. Social hierarchy demanded that the poor not inconvenience the prominent. The crowd's rebuke reflects first-century honor-shame culture, where blind beggars occupied the lowest social stratum. Yet Jesus consistently elevated those society marginalized: women,

children, lepers, tax collectors, and here, blind beggars whose faith surpassed the religiously respectable.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do religious crowds today still function as obstacles rather than conduits to Jesus?
2. What does the blind men's persistence despite rebuke teach about the relationship between desperate need and genuine faith?
3. When have you been silenced by religious gatekeepers, and how did you respond?

## Interlinear Text

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ο	δὲ	ὄχλος	ἐπετίμησεν	αὐτοῖς	ἵνα
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>the multitude</b>	<b>rebuked</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>because</b>
G1161		G3793	G2008	G846	G2443
σιωπήσωσιν·	οἱ	δὲ	μεῖζον	ἔκραζον	λέγοντες
<b>they should hold their peace</b>	G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>the more</b>	<b>they cried</b>	<b>saying</b>
G4623		G1161	G3185	G2896	G3004
Ἐλέησον	ἡμᾶς,	κύριε,	υἱὸς	Δαβίδ	
<b>Have mercy</b>	<b>on us</b>	<b>O Lord</b>	<b>thou Son</b>	<b>of David</b>	
G1653	G2248	G2962	G5207	G1138	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 19:13** (Parallel theme): Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

**Colossians 4:2** (Parallel theme): Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

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