

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 (ὁ 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** (ἵνα σιωπήσωσιν)—The purpose clause reveals the crowd's intent to silence worship that inconvenienced them.

But they cried the more (οἱ δὲ μείζον ἐκραξαν)—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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

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

ὁ δὲ ὄχλος ἐπετίμησεν αὐτοῖς ἵνα
G3588 **And** **the multitude** **rebuked** **them** **because**
G1161 G3793 G2008 G846 G2443

σιωπήσωσιν· οἱ δὲ μᾶλλον ἔκραζον λέγοντες
they should hold their peace G3588 **And** **the more** **they cried** **saying**
G4623 G1161 G3185 G2896 G3004

Ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, κύριε, υἱὸς Δαβὶδ
Have mercy **on us** **O Lord** **thou Son** **of David**
G1653 G2248 G2962 G5207 G1138

Additional Cross-References

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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