

Matthew 20:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.

Analysis

They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened (Κύριε, ἵνα ἀνοιχθῶσιν οἱ ὄφθαλμοὶ ἡμῶν)—The blind men's request is specific, humble, and acknowledges dependence. **That our eyes may be opened** (ἵνα ἀνοιχθῶσιν)—The subjunctive aorist passive anoichthōsin recognizes that only Jesus can open their eyes; they cannot do this themselves. The passive voice implies divine action—only God can give sight, physically and spiritually.

Verse 34 records Jesus's immediate healing: 'Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.' Their healing contrasts with the disciples' persistent blindness (v. 24). Physical sight leads to discipleship—'they followed him.' The blind men's progression models salvation: hearing about Jesus (v. 30), crying out for mercy (v. 30), persisting despite opposition (v. 31), receiving His call (v. 32), confessing need (v. 33), experiencing His compassion (v. 34), and following Him (v. 34).

Historical Context

Blindness in Scripture often symbolizes spiritual inability to perceive God's truth (Isaiah 6:10, 42:7; John 9:39-41). Jesus frequently healed the blind as a Messianic sign fulfilling Isaiah 35:5 ('Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened'). This healing, strategically placed before Jesus's triumphal entry (21:1-11), demonstrates that true disciples see Jesus's identity while crowds remain blind to His mission. The blind men's subsequent 'following' suggests they joined the pilgrim procession into Jerusalem.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the simplicity of 'that our eyes may be opened' contrast with the complexity of worldly ambition seen in verses 20-24?
2. What does the passive voice ('may be opened') teach about human inability and divine grace in salvation?
3. How does the blind men's immediate following of Jesus after healing (v. 34) challenge superficial Christianity?

Interlinear Text

λέγουσιν αὐτῷ Κύριε ἵνα ἀνοιχθῶσιν ἡμῶν οἱ
They say unto him Lord that may be opened our G3588
G3004 G846 G2962 G2443 G455 G2257

οφθαλμοί

eyes
G3788

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:18 (Parallel theme): Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.