



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Jesus Heals Two Blind Men**

- **Matthew 20:29**

And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.

- **20:30** *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.*

- **Matthew 20:31**

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.

- **20:32** ***And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?***

- **Matthew 20:33**

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

- **20:34** *So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.*

- Bible critics claim that **Matthew must be wrong.**
 - As he describes **“two blind men”**.
 - Whereas **Mark & Luke** only mentions **one**.
- Critics have held this up as yet another claim of the Bible **contradicting itself.**
 - The critics, however, **fail again on several accounts.**

- First, they again fail to understand that Bible does not record everything.

- John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

Amen.

- Different writers record differed details to emphasis their point.
- Not all newspapers record the very same details.
- Each emphasizes a different perspective.

- Mark & Luke put more emphasis on the blind man, what he did and his response.
- Matthew places more emphasis on what Jesus did than on the blind men themselves.

- **Winston Churchill**
was invited to give a speech
and the tenor of that speech was:
 - “**Never give up.**
 - **Never!**
 - **Never!**
 - **Never!**
- What makes this speech powerful
is that Church didn't just say it,
 - **but lived it.**

We might read this story of Jesus healing two blind men in much the same way, as it provides a powerful example.

- For sometimes you have to try and try again to gain your hearts desire,
- Never giving up even when the odds are stacked against you.

- Hebrews 12:1
- “Let us lay aside every weight”
 - By faith Noah built an ark,
 - Abraham separated from his idolatrous neighbors and gained a rich inheritance,
- Moses forsook Egypt and became leader of Israel’s hosts.

- By faith the Red Sea was crossed,
- Jericho captured,
- Goliath slain,
- the mouths of lions were closed,
- the violence of fire was quenched.

- **Spiritual faith**
is **not** a
passive thing,
- But **active**, **energetic**,
vigorous.
- As our blind men
demonstrated.

- We see in our story great excitement.
- "A great multitude."
 - In numbers there is a strange sympathy.
- Explaining the panics which frequently occur in crowds.
 - We should beware of the crowd mentality.
 - As demonstrated in our lesson for today.

- **The presence of Jesus**
was the occasion
of this excitement.
 - The multitude
"followed him."
(Matthew 20:29)
 - Christ is followed
from various motives.

- **Some follow him from:**
 - **Love and devotion**
 - **Curiosity,**
 - **Miracles.**
 - **loaves and fishes.**
- **Why do you follow Him?**

- The multitude who enjoyed their vision had little sympathy with those who were deprived of it.
 - Do we find this surprising?

- We find that these two blind men are sitting by the side of the road.
 - This would be a common place we would expect blind people to be since they usually had to make their living by begging.

- The road through Jericho was well traveled with people going to and from Jerusalem for the Passover.
- Hoping these strangers would have some extra money in their pockets to give to a beggar.

- Suddenly they realize that the size of the crowd has gotten much larger.
- There is a lot of talking, shouting.
- Mark and Luke tell us that Bartimaeus started asking what was going on.
(Luke 18:36)

- Upon hearing that Jesus was passing by they start shouting.
 - They did not just raise their voices,
 - They were screaming as loud as they could.

- **Think about it a bit**
and you understand why
they would have
screamed so loudly.
- They could not see
where **Jesus** was at,
- All they knew was
that He was **nearby**.

- And if that was so, they wanted to make sure that He heard them.
- They also had to make themselves heard over the noise of the crowd,
- So they screamed as loud as they could.
- They wanted Jesus to hear their plea, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!”

- **"the multitude rebuked them, that they should hold their peace."**

- Probably they thought the cry for mercy was an appeal for alms, **and that the blind men might be troublesome to Jesus.**

- Men too readily **judge Christ by themselves.**

- The **multitude** will ever rebuke those who cry after the Son of David.

- These blind men understood that Jesus might be their last desperate hope to regain their sight,
- And there was little chance that they would be so close to him again.

- So not caring
what anyone else
might think,
- They wanted Jesus to hear.
“Lord, have mercy on us,
Son of David!”
- What did they
have to lose?

- The crowd was **in a festive mood.**
- They did not want **to be interrupted** by such screaming.
- Though the crowd **was much better off** physically, economically, and socially than these two blind men,
 - The crowd was **unconcerned about them.**

- The multitude rebuked them as the disciples rebuked the parents of the little children.

(Matthew 18:1-3)

- They were only beggars;
- They who would come to Christ are sometimes discouraged by the servants of Christ.

- **Apart from Christ**
people are often callous
to those around them
only caring about themselves,
their own selfish needs.
- **In their resentment**
to the intrusion of
these two blind men
screaming so loudly
our text tells us
 - That the
**“multitude sternly
told them to be quiet.”**
(Luke 18:39)

- Some how I can not picture this crowd politely saying, **“Will you please be quiet!”**
- I picture it more as, **“Shut up you beggars!”**
- Would Jesus **hear** them?
- Would Jesus **respond**?
- Would Jesus **grant** their request?

- We are reminded of the words of Jesus in

- Matthew 18:6

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

- Here is the story of two men who found their way to a miracle.
 - It is a very significant story,
- For it paints a picture of the spirit and of the attitude of mind and heart to which the most precious gifts of God are open.

- These two blind men were waiting, and when their chance came they seized it with both hands.
- No doubt they had heard of the wondrous power of Jesus;

- And now was their opportunity.
- Jesus was passing by.
- If they had let him pass, their chance would have gone by for ever;
- But when the chance came they seized it.

- The time of this transaction was **critical**.
- Our Lord would **never** pass that way again.
 - It was necessary to be by the way **while Jesus was available**.

- Many are too busy
to know that He is passing.

- 1 Kings 20:40

And as thy servant was busy
here and there,
he was gone.

- It is not enough
to sit idly by the way side.

- There are a great many things which have to be done at the moment or they will never be done.

- There are a great many decisions which have to be taken on the spot or they will never be taken.
- The moment to act goes past;
- The impulse to decide fades.

- After Paul had preached on Mars Hill, there were those who said, **"We will hear you again about this"** (Act 17:32).
 - They put it off **until a more convenient time,** but so often that time never comes.

- One of the saddest scenes in the New Testament follows Paul's plea before King Agrippa.

- Acts 26:27

- King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?*

- I know that thou believest.*

- 26:28 *Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

- These two blind men **would not be deterred.**
- The crowd commanded them to stop their shouting **as they were making a nuisance of themselves.**
- It was the custom in Palestine for **a Rabbi to teach as he walked along the road.**

- And no doubt those around Jesus could not hear what Jesus was saying for this clamorous uproar.
- But nothing would stop the two blind men;
 - For them it was a matter of sight or blindness, and nothing was going to keep them back.

- It often happens that we are easily discouraged from seeking the presence of God.
- It is the man who will not be kept from Christ who in the end finds him.
 - Isaiah 55:6
Seek ye the LORD
while he may be found,
call ye upon him
while he is near:

- These two blind men had an imperfect faith but they were determined to act on the faith they had.
 - It was as *Son of David* that they addressed Jesus.
 - That meant that they did not believe him to be the Messiah.
- It was an imperfect faith but they acted on it; and Jesus accepted it.

- It was the same
with
the people on Pentecost
in Acts 2.
- They knew very little
but it was adequate.

- These two blind men were not afraid to bring a great request.
- They were beggars; but it was not money they asked for, it was nothing less than sight.
- A seemingly impossible request.

- **Jeremiah 32:17**

**Ah Lord GOD! behold,
thou hast made
the heaven
and the earth
by thy great power
and stretched out arm,
and there is nothing
too hard for thee:**

- Let us not forget, these two blind men were grateful.
- When they had received the blessing for which they craved, they did not go away and forget; *they followed Jesus.*

- So many people, both in things material and in things spiritual, get what they want, and then forget to say thanks.
- Ingratitude is the ugliest of all sins.
- We can never repay God for what he has done for us but we can always be grateful to him.

- Why this story?
- Why is it here?
- As Jesus goes to Jerusalem to die, why stop in the progress of such a great event as the Passover where He is to be the lamb, slain from the foundation of the world, why stop to include a story of two blind men?

- One overpowering reason is indicated by the word "compassion" (verse 34).
- We need to recognize that Jesus was a man of great compassion.

- As the blind men **were nothing but an irritation** and a distraction to the crowd.
- To Jesus they were also **a deep pain to Him.**
 - The pain of **sympathy,**
 - **empathy**
 - **compassion.**

- While the world wanted to silence these kind of people, Jesus wanted to hear what they had to say.
- While the world wanted to make sure they didn't get in the way, Jesus wanted to stand with them.

- While the world wanted to be sure they didn't interrupt anything by articulating their need,
 - Jesus wanted not only to know their need but to meet it.
 - And so, at best this wonderful little story is a demonstration of the heart of God which is a heart of compassion.

- And so does Jesus demonstrate compassion.

- We would imagine that He would have been preoccupied with the disciples, which were to carry on the legacy after His death which will occur in a few days.

- We would imagine that **He could have been distracted by the thought of dying itself** and becoming the sacrificial lamb as He looked up the plateau to Jerusalem from the vantage point of Jericho far below.

- It would have been easy for us to understand that He really didn't have time in this particular moment in history to stop and take care of a couple of blind men of which there would have been many such in Jericho

- **But even more common**
than physical blindness
was spiritual blindness.
 - And metaphorically
the gospels and the epistles
speak often of
the blindness of the heart.

- *He came unto His own and His own received Him not.*"

- Or in John Ch. 3 where it says that "*men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil*".

- Romans 11:25 which says *blindness in part has happened to Israel.*
 - Or 2 Corinthians 3:14, *"Their minds were blinded."*
- Or Jesus' words in Matthew 23, *"Woe unto you blind guides, you blind Pharisee,"*
 - Able to see physically, but blind to God.

- Now the case of these men is most interesting because while they are physically blind, they appear to have unusually clear spiritual sight.

- Physically they see nothing,
- Spiritually they see very well.

- Why are people spiritually blind?
- They're blinded by sin.
- Ephesians 4:18

Having the understanding darkened,

• *being alienated from the life of God*

• *through the ignorance*
that is in them,

• *because of the blindness*
of their heart:

- It is into the darkness of man's spiritual blindness that Jesus comes.

- Luke 4:18

He said He had come to give sight to the blind.

- He was not primarily speaking of physical blindness,
- He was primarily speaking of spiritual blindness.
 - He said in John 8,
***"I am the light that lights the world,
whoever follows Me
will never walk in darkness."***
 - He came to give spiritual light to blind eyes.

- What is our condition without Christ
 - **Revelation 3:17-18**
 - **"Because you say,
'I am rich, have become wealthy,
and have need of nothing'
and do not know that you are
wretched, miserable, poor,
blind, and naked --**
 - **18 "I counsel you ...
anoint your eyes with eye salve,
that you may see.**

- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

- **4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**

- We must see our true condition before we will call on Jesus!

- These blind men knew very well their condition.

- And what was that condition?

- **# 1 They were desperate.**
 - “**Cried out**” .
(krazo - G2896)
 - Meaning in the Greek **to literally to cry out in anguish;**
 - It is the same word **to describe the cries of a woman during childbirth.**

- **# 2 They were broken.**
- **They cried for mercy!**
(Matthew 20:31)
- ***"And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'***
(Luke 18:13-14)

- **# 3 They were persistent**
(**Matthew 20:31**)
- They would **not** be denied.
 - No one had to **beg these men** to come to Christ!
 - **Why?** Because:
- They were convinced that **Jesus was their only hope.**

- **# 4 They believed.**
(Matthew 20:34)
- **O Lord, Son of David,**
- This was the popular
Jewish designation
for the Messiah.

- (5) They asked for help.
 - Have mercy on us!
(Matthew 20:31)
- The one condition of mercy
is that we must be prepared for it.
 - We must “Ask”
 - John 16:24
ask, and ye shall receive

- What was the **result** of their efforts?
- **(1) Jesus stood still.**
 - His standing **rebuked** and **silenced** the thoughtless clatter of the unsympathizing crowd.
- **Wherever there is suffering** there the Blessed One stands.

- **# 2 Jesus is willing to help.**

- **Jesus asked what he should do for them.**

- **(Matthew 20:32)**

- This shows

- **His willingness**
to help.

- But he must have
a clear statement
of need.

- **# 3 The Master called to them**
(**Matthew 20:32-34**)

- **What a contrast**
to the multitude
who would have
silenced their cry
to him for mercy!

- Jesus invites those
whom the world repulses.

- **Psalms 50:15**

”Call on me in the day of trouble” .

- **# 4 Jesus stoops to them.**

- **Matthew 20:34**

**So Jesus had
compassion on them,
and touched their eyes:**

- **Isaiah 59:1**

**Behold, the LORD's hand
is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.**

- **# 5 Their prayers are answered.**
- **Matthew 20:34
*and immediately
their eyes received sight,...***

- **What is our application?**
 - We recognize **our lost condition.**
 - We are
“**wretched, miserable,**
poor, blind, naked...”
 - **James 4:10**
Humble yourselves
in the sight of the Lord,
and He will lift you up.

- **We must cry out**
to God for mercy.

- **Luke 17:10**

**When ye shall have done
all those things which
are commanded you,
say,**

- **We are unprofitable servants:
we have done that
which was our duty to do.**

- Spiritual blindness is ignorance of the truth.
 - Many who say, "We see"
are spiritually blind.
(John 9:41).
 - Blindness of heart is a disease of which the patient seldom complains.
 - Earthly blindness is but for a day;
 - But who could bear to be blind through eternity?

- Today,
what is
your need?

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17

