

## Matthew 20:29-34

(29) And as they were going out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. (30) And behold, two blind *men* sitting beside the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" (31) Then the multitude rebuked them, so that they would be silent. But they cried out *all* the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" (32) And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you desire *that* I do for you?" (33) They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." (34) And being moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

## Mark 10:46-52

(46) Then they came to Jericho. And as He and His disciples were going up from Jericho with a large multitude, Bartimeus the blind man, the son of Timeus, was sitting beside the road begging. (47) And after hearing that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (48) Then many began to rebuke him, so that he would be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (49) And Jesus stood still and asked for him to be called. And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good courage; rise up, for He is calling you." (50) And after casting aside his beggar's cloak, he arose and came to Jesus. (51) Then Jesus answered him and said, "What do you desire to have Me do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Master, that I may receive sight." (52) And Jesus said to him "Go your way, for your faith has healed you." Then he immediately received sight, and he followed Jesus in the way.

## [Luke 18:35-43](#)

(35) Now it came to pass that as He drew near to Jericho, there was a certain blind man who sat begging beside the road. (36) And hearing a multitude passing by him, he asked what this might be. (37) And they told him, "Jesus the Nazarean is passing by." (38) Then he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." (39) And those who were going in front rebuked him, so that he would be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me." (40) Then Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he came near, He asked him, (41) Saying, "What do you desire to have Me do for you?" And he said, "Lord, that I may receive sight." (42) Then Jesus said to him, "Receive sight. Your faith has healed you." (43) And immediately he received sight; and he followed Him, glorifying God. Now after seeing this, all the people gave praise to God.

*A Faithful Version*

While Bartimaeus sits by the roadside wondering, “Why all the commotion?” he is told that [Jesus](#) of Nazareth is passing by. In addressing Him as “O Lord, Son of David,” his crying out to Him for mercy acknowledges Christ's deity and humanity, as well as signifying his acceptance of His Messiahship as the future King of Israel. “Son of David” was a well-known designation of the expected Prophet ([Ezekiel 34:23-24](#); [Matthew 9:27](#); [Luke 1:32](#)), the Promised One at whose coming the eyes of the blind would be opened ([Isaiah 29:18](#); [35:5](#)).

The fact that their eyes can now see alludes not only to receiving physical sight, but also—more importantly—to their eyes being opened *spiritually*, verified by the words “and they followed Him” ([Matthew 20:34](#); [Mark 10:52](#); [Luke 18:43](#)). [The world](#) ridicules Christians for calling out to [God](#) in [faith](#), but this is exactly what the Son of God wants us to do. Many who are spiritually blind to God's truth have a bitter attitude, disliking those whose eyes are opened to Christ, the only path to salvation.

Since Bartimaeus was blind, he likely felt a certain tension while straining to ascertain Jesus' reaction to his shout. No doubt, he felt great relief when He responded with compassion. Most people do not realize how far they are

from God and the wonderful gifts He offers to those who respond to His call. However, because they will not cast off their self-righteousness, they remain alienated from Him, at enmity with Christ ([Romans 10:3](#)). When God calls, we must lay aside every weight and enticing [sin](#) ([Hebrews 12:1-3](#)).

— Martin G. Collins

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