

**Jesus Heals the Blind**  
**Matthew 20:29-34**  
**December 31, 2023**

Matthew 20:29–34 – [29] And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. [30] And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” [31] The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” [32] And stopping, Jesus called them and said, “What do you want me to do for you?” [33] They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” [34] And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

The blind being healed is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Context of passage: The trajectory of Matthew’s Gospel is heading towards Jerusalem. Jesus has his sights set on the cross before Him. Many were still trying to understand who Jesus is and what that means for them—is he just a good teacher; is he just a miracle worker; or is he the Savior?

Setting the stage: Jews are traveling from all over to come to Jerusalem for Passover. As a result, many are passing through Jericho since it’s a last stop for many before Jerusalem.

Other accounts of this story are found in Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18:35-43. Mark even gives us the name of one of the blind beggars: Bartimaeus.

“Son of David” is a phrase that refers to the king who fulfills prophecy from the Old Testament. The Son of David would be the king, healer, and leader of Israel who would sit on David’s throne forever.

The two beggars plead for mercy—not because they feel they deserve mercy but because they know God is loving and compassionate.

Contrasting two ways one can see him or herself before God.

Luke 18:9–14 – He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Do you see your desperate need for the Lord's mercy or do you see the need to prove your righteousness?

Healing the blind was unheard of. There were no such accounts in the OT of the blind being healed.

Daniel Doriani writes, "In the Old Testament, there is no record that a prophet or servant of God ever heals the blind. But the healing of the blind is Jesus' most common miracle. Why? Because the Bible says God alone gives sight to the blind. When God restores all things, when his Servant comes, then 'the eyes of the blind will see.'"

This passage points to Jesus' divinity—Jesus is the Son of God.

Do you boldly confess who Jesus is and your need for Him? Or are you like some in the crowd who are walking near Jesus but missing His identity?

Knowing Jesus is the only way to receive salvation. Boldly confess your need for His mercy. Once you see Jesus for who He truly is, that he is God, the only response is to follow Him.

### **GROW GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What are ways in which people miss the true identity of Jesus? And how can we help those who do this?
- 3.) What is the significance of this parable being repeated in the Gospel of Mark and Gospel of Luke. How does Mark's inclusion of one of the names of the beggar (Bartimaeus) help?
- 4.) The crowds attempted to turn the beggars away from Jesus. Why do you think they did this and what does this tell you about them?
- 5.) Read Luke 18:9-14. How would you describe the people Jesus told this parable to? How do people in our culture today demonstrate this same type of attitude?
- 6.) In what ways do you identify with those in this story?
- 7.) Only in Jesus can we find true hope and salvation. What are false hopes in the culture around us?
- 8.) sHow can your Grow Group help you apply this teaching to your life this week?