

Lasting Impressions from the Last Week of Jesus' Life
The Last Miracle: Open our Eyes
Matthew 20:29-34

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Text Introduction: Today we begin a series of messages that will take us all the way through Easter Sunday. I want to take you on a little journey allowing Matthew to be our guide. Before we begin the journey I want you to ponder one question though. If you knew that you had one week to live, what would you do? I suspect that you would do things a little bit different. If we could know that we had one week to live, at the very least we would pay a great deal of attention to what we did. We would dare not spend one single second on something that was not worthwhile. We would dare not waste one second. If that is true of us, how much more do you think the same can be said of Jesus? I want us to journey to Jerusalem, to the cross, paying attention to the stops that he made. For where He went, and what He did, and the places that He stopped shed light on the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us in Matthew 20:18-19 that Jesus announced to the disciples that they were going to Jerusalem and there the Son of Man would be delivered and condemned to death and ultimately crucified. Our text this morning begins the story of what happens on the way to Jerusalem.

Text: ²⁹ As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. ³⁰ There were two blind men sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³¹ The crowd told them to keep quiet, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"

³² Jesus stopped, called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

³³ "Lord," they said to Him, "open our eyes!" ³⁴ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they could see, and they followed Him.

Introduction: To be sure, the fact that Jesus healed these two blind men is an incredible story. In fact, it is a miracle. But the fact that the story happens at the place that it happens is the significant thing to me. Consider the scene: A crowd is following Jesus, two men crying on the side, the crowd rebukes them, they cry even louder, and then something happens...Jesus stops. Now you don't read it in the story, but you can visualize it—the whole crowd stops too. Then they watch as the conversation takes place between Jesus and the two blind men. A short conversation at that point ensues. Jesus says, "What is it that I should do for you?" "That our eyes should be opened." That's it, and then 3 things immediately happen. He touched them, they regained their sight, and then they follow him. We can learn a lot when Jesus stops. We learn at least three lessons in this miracle.

1. God cares for our needs than we can imagine.

Scenario: Going to Jerusalem, Going to the cross

- (1) The humanity of Jesus is considering the earthly sorrow in His future. Humiliation, betrayal, abandonment, suffering, death. One of the most amazing things to me about the cross is Jesus knew. What a picture of his love for us?
- (2) The divinity of Jesus is considering the eternal significance in His future. In the cross, for once and all the final death blow will be dealt against sin, Satan, death, and Hell.

In the midst of the earthly sorrow and eternal significance, Jesus Stops! Why? Because He cared, He had compassion on the needs of two men.

Significance:

- (1) God is never too busy to be concerned about my problems.
- (2) God is never too bothered to be concerned about my problems.

Is the journey to Jerusalem important? Yes! Is the blindness of two men important! Yes!

Are there more significant problems in the world than your problems? Yes! However, there is nothing more important to God than what you are facing.

2. God cherishes a heart that asks with proper motives.

Characteristics of Right Asking:

- (1) Faith
- (2) Humility
- (3) Desperate

3. God changes and challenges our heart as He changes our circumstances.

Jesus healed the blind men because He cared for them. He healed them because they asked with faith, humility, and out of desperation. But he ultimately healed them because He desired for them to follow Him. I am intrigued with the original language of this text. The word for eye is not the same word that is used for eye in verse 33. The word used in verse 33 is the familiar word, used 100 times in the New Testament. The word in verse 34 is a peculiar word used only one other time in the NT. Is there any significance? It may be hard to say for sure, but the word used in verse 34 is used in non-biblical sources in reference to the "eyes of the soul." Perhaps Matthew is saying, Jesus touched their eyes, and at the same time he touched their souls. The result was that they followed Jesus.