

The Son of David comes in mercy to heal, to forgive, to give life. Always. On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus took the disciples aside, makes His 3<sup>rd</sup> passion prediction that's recorded.

The disciples do not understand, do not see it. They should after 3 years. And not just His own statements but, He says, **everything written in the prophets, about Him, that will be accomplished.** Not just 3 years but 5000 years, the entirety of Holy Scripture. He is Himself, in His death and resurrection; making atonement for the world, the climax of the Bible and of human history itself.

They do not see in sinful blindness what is taking place, they lack the courage, faith required to face the things that they must. We are no better, often sinfully blind to see the Lord's works, lack faith, courage.

This blind man, a wonder example for you, of courage, faith. He cries, **Jesus, Son of David, have mercy.** He confesses Jesus is the Son of David -title of the Messiah; whose mercy endures forever. And he will not be silenced, unashamed.

That crowd, the world would have him -have you be quiet, just shut-up. However, faith endures, stubborn, persistent. The Holy Spirit working faith in you to have courage too. Your faith, confess Christ regardless what people think or what they will say, because you seeks a gift infinitely greater than worldly approval, friends, or respect of man. Faith is not ashamed, will not be silenced. You are in places, in settings, where faith should not be silent. Pray. Take a stand for truth. Do not yield to the ungodly. Show courage. Confess your Lord, as a blind man cries out even more loudly.

This blind beggar prays, **Lord, have mercy on me.** And the prayer is granted. This beggars prayer, look what it says, **Jesus stopped.** No other prayer in Scripture so grasps our Lord's attention.

**Lord, have mercy on me.** This is your prayer in the Church, in the liturgy, for 2000 years. Why so many today discard this I have no idea? Perhaps they've a better idea than what Scripture, the Holy Spirit gives.

Your prayer as beggar looking for help, needing His work, **Lord have mercy;** not just prayer in church but every day. When you see someone in trouble or acting foolishly, pray for them simply, **Lord, have mercy.**

When you yourself are in trouble or need, when home is being torn apart, when life just keeps piling up, when you're about to go into surgery, when you are spent, pray, **Lord, have mercy on me.** Even when life is good, laughs, joys, good health, no pain, after prayers of thanksgiving, still pray **Lord, have mercy on me** lest you fall into complacency and pride.

Let this prayer be often upon your lips, in your heart. **Lord, have mercy.** His mercy is everything for you. And your Lord does stop, pours out His works to you in this prayer. Every. Single. Time.

When the blind man wants his sight to be restored, he's asking for more than his eyesight. He knows, he's asking for the Messianic sign. Explicit several

times by the prophets, the Messiah will restore sight to the blind; of all the OT miracles not a single blind person cured.

This blind man knows this is the Messiah -not only to take care of physical blindness but to take care of spiritual blindness. In Luke's Gospel, this is the last miracle before He enters into Jerusalem. So you can see it, see the connection. It's a sign against sinful blindness, that with eyes of faith we see in this man, the Messiah, God Himself in the passion, to see the heart of the Father; that you recognize the mercy that endures forever. That you would trust.

A blind man can see clearly. And the blind man doesn't stay in Jericho; he follows Jesus to Jerusalem for His passion.

And those who see are blind to what is going on around them. How true for you. We are so blinded with sinful desires, blind we think we are so good. How true, we all think we're not as wrong, not as unkind, not as inconsiderate, not as unloving as we truly are. A report shows 75% of all drivers think they are above average. I know I am but the rest of you can't be great drivers. We're naïve, foolish selfishly blind to see so much.

**Lord have mercy**, not be blind, to see our selfish ways, not treating others as if they were Jesus Himself. To see the hurt you cause, to see the needs of others, to see your sins.

**To follow**, like the blind beggar, means your life is different, not just the inside but shown on the outside. To follow Him, you live and act and talk different. You have a different reality, different purpose. God give us courage to keep our minds and bodies pure from the filth of this world. Your grandmother would be shocked, scandalized what you have come to accept. The Holy Spirit working in us faith, courage to embrace virtue and obedient to follow our Lord no matter.

Jesus asks, **What do you want Me to do for you?** He answered His own question: Be the Christ for me, to be crucified for your salvation. That us guilty beggars are not being punished, but declared holy. That's mercy. He brings light to our blindness of sin and unbelief, that the eyes of all see Him, behold Him, true God, true man who laid His life down as a sacrifice for you.

**What do you want me to do for you?** You're here because our Lord answers your plea, **Lord have mercy**. The Son of David comes in mercy to heal, to forgive, to give you life. Always, now in His Word and Sacraments. **He says, your faith has made you well**, the word there **made you well** is **saved you**. Your faith -this gift of God- from His Word, Sacraments- Christ has saved you.

Thanks be to the Lord He has time, He stops for you, mercy in abundance. Do not be blind to see. **What do you want Me to do for you?** Our Lord answers your cry daily in countless details of your life. **Lord have mercy on me**. Your prayer for compassion, help, a cure, is given; beyond ways you can begin to fathom, it is yours. You can trust this. What a group of beggars, to follow Him, to long for, receive what He gives.