

Saturday, April 1, 2023  
Season of Lent  
Day 34

### **Matthew 20:29–34**

<sup>29</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. <sup>30</sup> Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

<sup>31</sup> The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

<sup>33</sup> “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

### **Reflection**

The time for secrecy (at some level) is over. In chapter 9 Jesus is pursued by two blind men asking for the restoration of sight, which Jesus grants once he gets inside. Now we have two more blind men using the same language and making the same request, and Jesus grants it to them immediately there on the road.

Without denying the historical truth of the accounts, Matthew is signalling to us that Jesus’s work is now to be seen and known by all, not only a few. He is on the cusp of entering Jerusalem—leaving Jericho; think promised land—and declaring himself the Messiah by cleansing the temple.

This also the beginning of the work of the church. No longer is the good news (mainly) for Israel alone. It is about to go out to all the nations. All will be able to see that Jesus is Lord; even while all might reject his Lordship.

During Lent especially the church lives very counter to the culture. This is not a rejection of culture in general, but a claim that we have been made a peculiar people who have been made through a strange story. Lent is the work of each of us intentionally being shaped by that story. Of course, this requires us to see first. This is the second aspect of Lent’s work. It first shapes us to see and then it gives us a story to be and tell.

We cannot view the work of the church as something that is done within church buildings and to/for church people. Rather, the church has been placed on the road to the nations so that we can respond to the cry of the blind to receive sight.

### **Prayer**

Lord, grant us sight to see and understand your gospel. Through your gospel story continue to shape us into your body, we pray. Free us from viewing ourselves and our work as withdrawn sacred rites for the holy. Instead, help us to know ourselves to be sent with as a holy people with a holy word that can give sight to all the blind who seek it. Amen.