

## He Died For All

Mark 10:46-49  
Charlie Brackett

As Jesus and His disciples came to Jericho they came upon two blind beggars by the side of the road. When someone told them that Jesus of Nazareth was approaching they immediately began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" By calling Him "Son of David" they demonstrated their belief that he was the promised Savior, the Messiah, anointed of God. Believing Him to be divinely sent, they cried out for mercy.

Some in the multitude around heard their cries and tried to quiet them. We are not told the nature of their exact warnings, but it is not surprising that such a crowd would harbor in it those who desired to separate men from the Savior's blessings. We have them today. Can't you just imagine the kinds of warnings they were calling out to those blind men?

One over on the left says, "You beggars, be quiet. Jesus is an important teacher. He hasn't time for the likes of you!" Another calls from the back, "Get in line! We got here first. After the Lord has blessed us, maybe you can speak then!" And another, "Go away, beggar. This is not a good time. Come back later." Maybe up closer to Jesus a strong young man booms out proudly, "Be quiet there, beggar. The Messiah is on His way to claim His kingdom. He has no place for the blind and maimed. The King needs those who are whole and strong, those who can defend His right to the throne." And one, dressed in finery, arms dripping with gold and silver bracelets, only looks down on the beggars with disgust, and haughtily mumbles something about those who have neither gold nor position in life not being worthy of the kingdom of God.

Of course, they were all wrong, and the beggars would not listen. They would not be quieted. They only cried out more loudly, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus heard them, and not being intimidated by misguided members of the crowd, He commanded the beggars be called forward. Some, hearing the Lord's words, encouraged the blind men. "Be of good cheer," they said, "Rise, He is calling you."

What happened there near Jericho so long ago is not very different from what often happens today. Some men hinder those who would come to Jesus. They may judge a person unworthy of being a Christian, or uninterested, or of the wrong social or ethnic background. How sad it is when man puts himself in the seat of judgment to determine who is and who isn't fit for the kingdom. God is our judge, not man.

Thank the Lord for those who truly want to help! Jesus died for all everywhere. He died for even you and me. He is interested in all. No one is too poor, too uneducated, too sinful, or too blind to come to the Savior for mercy.