God’s Overflowing Love

Compassion – Matthew 20:29-34

**29﻿ As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ﻿30﻿ 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!” ﻿31﻿ The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” ﻿32﻿ Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. ﻿33﻿ “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.” ﻿34﻿ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.**

*The word “compassion” is filled with rich meaning. In the original Greek, the word literally means to be moved in the gut; to have your insides ache. It refers to the inner organs. The Latin literally means to “suffer with, to feel the pain and suffering of another.” This word indicates an intensely emotional reaction of unbridled sympathy and heartfelt concern for another.*

The scene is that of Jesus and His disciples leaving Jericho. This meant that Jesus was very close to Jerusalem. Jesus’ triumphal entry on Palm Sunday follows in the opening verses of chapter 21. It won’t be too long before Jesus will be crucified outside of Jerusalem.

There was much traffic on this road because people were traveling to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.

Luke 18:35-43 mentions only one blind man. Mark 10:46-52 likewise mentions only one blind man and tells us that his name was Bartimaeus. This does not mean there is a contradiction between Matthew and Mark and Luke. It is similar to the varying accounts of Easter. (PBC)

Just how these men knew about Jesus is not said. Perhaps their friends may have told them. They obviously knew a fair amount about Jesus because they called Him “Lord and Son of David.” “’Son of David” was a popular Jewish title for the coming Messiah. Another sign that they had been touched in some way by Jesus’s teachings and had faith are Paul’s words, “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Jesus certainly knew what lay ahead for Him. No one would have blamed Him for being distracted by the painful days in the coming week. Jesus,’ again shows His compassion for those in need. He does not hesitate to ask them what they want. Jesus lets nothing distract Him for our needs either no matter what else is going on in the world.

Like in so many other situations, Jesus touches their eyes and heals them. Jesus is there for us too. He is right beside us in every need. Plus, one day He will heal us permanently in heaven.

Prayer:

Jesus thank you for the many examples from your Word that illustrate your overflowing compassion and love for us in this life. Help us be as bold as the blind men in this story when it comes to asking for your help. Being filled with the gift of faith, help us to bring others to you when they are in a time of need. Amen.