

What it Looks Like to be Spiritually Blind (vv. 35-42)

James and John’s request

Fame and Celebrity

Power and Authority

Money

Status

Deep irony...

They don’t know what they’re asking

What they’re asking will never work, but will give the opposite of what they want

Note on vs. 42...

What it Means to See the True Path of God (vv. 43-45)

The path of Jesus

He came to die

To drink the cup of God’s wrath

It is a ransom – a payment

The word for is Greek “anti” which means “exchange or substitution” (Louw-Nida Greek English Lexicon)

Our path

Note how our servanthood is “downstream” from Jesus’ servanthood

The greatest is the servant of all

How Jesus Can Open Up Your Eyes (vv. 46-52)

The same question, a different answer

“Son of David” – An extremely messianic title, recognizing his kingship and authority.
Vs. wanting to be lords and kings themselves

“Have mercy on me” – Acknowledgment of his own need, of Jesus’ power
Vs. wanting to be in a position to give out mercy to whom they wish.

“Rabboni” – Not just that he is a teacher, but he is “*my teacher.*” Indicates a personal commitment. He is saying, “Jesus, you are my master and Lord.”
Vs. wanting to be Lord over others.

Your faith has made you well

Bartimaeus became a follower, a disciple... he had the spiritual eyes to pick up his cross, and follow Jesus to his death

A disciple:

Places himself at the mercy of Jesus
Recognizes the messiah-ship of Jesus
Personally accepts Jesus to be his master and teacher
Follows Jesus to the cross

James and John seemed not to want any of that... do you?

Questions for Personal Study

1. How is the world spiritually blind today?
2. How are you spiritually blind? How do you avoid the path of the cross?
3. What is the meaning of Jesus’ death according to verse 45? (Memorize it!!)
4. How is Bartimaeus an example for us as we follow Jesus?