

NO LIMITS
WITH PASTOR DELMAN

I
CAN
See
CLEARLY
NOW

S E R M O N G U I D E

I Can See Clearly Now

Matthew 20:29-34

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, then you know what it's like to go from having blurred vision to being able to say, "Wow, I can see clearly now!" It's also important to note that that declaration, I can see clearly now, applies not just to reading words on a page, but also for navigating your way through life. Just as this statement applies to the natural world, it also applies to the spiritual. It's hard to function when you can't see. It's difficult navigating your way through life when you don't have a clear understanding of who you are, what you're doing, and where you are going. But when you get clarity, when God gives you a revelation about your situation, you are able to move peacefully through life knowing that you can see clearly now.

KEY POINTS

1. Your blessings outnumber your burdens.

What stands out to me about today's key verse is that the main protagonists, the two blind men, have a lot going against them. Not only does their physical disability prevent them from seeing the world around them. It also prevents them from being equal participants socially, politically, and spiritually in the world around them. They were effectively nobodies.

But the blind men in this story did not let the fact that they couldn't see prevent them from moving forward in life. Their eyes didn't work, but clearly their ears and mouths did, for while they cannot see Jesus, they can hear Him, and they can call out to Him. Instead, they chose to focus on what they did have going for them in order to make their lives better. They could not see, but they could hear, and they could speak, and by using what they had, they got the attention of Jesus. That's when their breakthrough happened. And that's when a breakthrough can happen in your life too, when you choose to focus on what you do have, rather than focusing on what you don't.

2. Your breakthrough comes from wanting something deeper.

The two blind men in Matthew chapter 20 are proof that your breakthrough will come when you decide that you want something deeper in life. As this text unfolds, what stands out the most is what the two blind men ask for when Jesus comes passing by. First, they ask for mercy, and then they ask for their eyesight.

If the two blind men had asked for a handout, like I'm sure they had done time and time again in the past, they would have found themselves back in that familiar spot on the side of the road a few days later doing the same thing all over again. However, they finally reached the point where they were sick and tired of being sick and tired, and they realized that it was time for a change. Everyone around them was asking for money, but they asked for mercy.

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3. You can't be afraid to ask for help.

The two blind men knew that their condition was such that they were not able to handle it themselves, and the only way it was going to get better was for them to open up their mouths and ask for help. They didn't let their ego get in the way and prevent them from being transparent about what they were going through.

Consider this: you can't heal what you're trying to hide. Whatever you're struggling with, now is the time to deal with it. And the only way to do that is to admit to yourself, to God, and sometimes to others that something is wrong, and you need help.

4. You must be willing to step out of your comfort zone.

Within this story, there were two groups of people that these two men were willing to confront. First, there were other blind people from their community, people whose social, economic, and spiritual condition was just like their own, and yet they were so conditioned to life by that roadside that they were content to just ask for spare change. On the other hand, there was the crowd of onlookers who thought these two men should be quiet, shut up, and be satisfied with the handouts and public assistance they received. The crowd was comfortable giving these men daily assistance as they passed by, but they became unsettled by these men's attempt to improve the quality of their lives.

But rather than succumb to the pressures of the folks in their community, and rather than yield to the criticisms and ridicule of the crowd, they decided that they would not let the stares, opinions, and opposition of other people prevent them from crying out to Jesus and getting the help they wanted.

5. What you want might not be what you need.

When reading this text in English, it is easy to assume that Jesus gives the two blind men exactly what they want. We assume that the same eyes they wanted opened in verse 33 are the same eyes Jesus touches in verse 34. But they are not, and that's because Jesus understood that what they really needed was something spiritual, and not just something physical. What you want is not always what you need.

These men asked for their physical eyes to be opened, which was an improvement over asking for charity, but Jesus gave them something that was even better than what they asked for.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are some blessings you can be grateful for and focus on rather than the burdens you're currently faced with?
2. Is there something you need help with, but you've been too afraid or hesitant to ask for help? If so, who is someone you can ask for help from this week?
3. What is an example of God giving something you needed that turned out to be better than what you originally wanted?
