

*"And it came to pass, that as [Jesus] was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side **begging**: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, 'Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.'" **Luke 18:35-38** KJV*



Without Christ we are all blind beggars, hoping for some pitiful handout to get us by until the morrow. Truthfully, what men need is sight, and until they cry unto Jesus for mercy, their sight will never be restored. *"For WHOSOEVER CALLETH upon the name of the LORD shall be saved."* Men have no idea how pitiful their condition is, because they cannot see it. Remember the story of the lame man and Peter? The beggar was asking Peter for alms, but Peter knew there was something better and replied, *"Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."* If you had a choice to buy groceries for a blind man or to give him sight, which would be better? So many churches and well-meaning groups feed the hungry, and that we should, but stop short of sharing the Blessed Gospel of eternal life, because the world has browbeat us into thinking we should not offend folk with our faith! I'm quite sure it would be very "offensive" for me to grab someone and yank them back from falling over the precipice, but it would save their life and in hindsight they would be grateful. Which of you believers, had you a choice, would reject your eternal life in favor of being, once again, *"dead in trespasses and sin?"* Blind men scabble along in life thinking that because they have a bit more than the beggar down the street they've done well. The meager handouts of this world are beggar's wages in comparison to Heaven's wealth. *"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."* When a man receives his sight he is no longer chained to the "begging spot." He is free to get up and walk by sight. Faith gives men freedom to ignore the outbursts that frighten the blind. He sees clearly how to navigate the crooked pathways of life. Insurmountable obstacles become achievable tasks. Crooked paths become passable, and surroundings no longer frighten and startle. When we walk by faith, we walk with the supernatural ability to see the world as God sees it. We no longer have to depend on the "other" senses to guide us. *"For we walk by faith, not by sight. Faith is the evidence of things NOT seen."* We no longer need a blind man's cane to feel our way around. Sadly, those who are self-assured in their way are no better than a blind man who knows his way around. They are still blind to the beauty that surrounds them. Faith supersedes the natural realm to open the treasuries of heaven to us!

The cry out for mercy to the blind man brought,
The Bountiful Saviour for whom he had sought,
The sight he received for his faithful request
Brought to him blessings, the best of the best -CGP

Let us pity, not envy, the beggars that surround us. Instead of giving them "handouts," or walking on by ignoring them, let's bring them to Jesus, God's Word, for healing. His ear is always open, and so ours should be, also.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV