A. Do not Listen to Negativity (vs. 29-31a):

1. **Leaving** – Jesus leaves old Jericho with His disciples for the cross.
   
a) The main city of Roman Jericho, occupied by poorer Jews, lay about a mile east of Herod’s winter headquarters (also called Jericho), which contained the palace, fortress, and houses of Herod’s wealthy friends. (See Lucetta Mowry, BA, XV, 2, p. 34). Thus, the miracle could have occurred between the two Jericho’s, with Luke understandably thinking in terms of the Herodian city, where his next incident (Zacchaeus) most probably occurred. [1]

2. **Leaving** – Jesus leaves old Jericho because He is on a time line led by God.
   
a) A very ancient city located five miles west of Jordan and about 15 miles northeast of Jerusalem. In Jesus’ time OT Jericho was largely abandoned, but a new city, south of the old one, had been built by Herod the Great (NIV Study Bible).

3. **Large; great** – The size of the crowd compared to two beggars is the contrast Matthew wants to expose.

4. **Large; great** – The large crowd stirs egos among the disciples (Matthew 20:20-28), while the blind men expose Christ heart.

5. **Follow** – The crowd no longer was just coming for the Passover, they were coming to see Jesus.

6. **Follow** – The fact the crowd followed Christ seems to indicate they had come to have faith in Him that He is the long-awaited Messiah.

7. **Behold** – In the midst of all the excitement there were two blind men that needed Christ attention.

8. **Behold** – In the midst of the excitement two blind men go unnoticed.

9. **Two blind men sitting on the road** – These men sat along this road continuously. They could not follow Him.
   
a) The presence of a blind beggar just outside the city gates, on a road pilgrim followed on the way to Jerusalem, was a common sight in that day. (NIV Study Bible)

10. **Two blind men sitting on the road** – Despite the crowd being around Jesus His purpose to help those in need was not lost. Two men whom people in the crowd viewed as insignificant were important to Christ even though He had an appointed time.
11. **Heard** – These men seem to know about Christ reputation to heal and immediately demonstrated their faith in Him.

12. **Cry out** – These men know that all they had was a moment and they were not going to let it pass by.

13. **Cry out** – These men were urgently boisterous, focused on only one thing and that was getting Christ attention.

14. **Cry out** – Their purpose changed when they heard that Jesus is nearby (Luke 12:22-34).

15. **The crowd** – There was a collective response from the crowd to stop these men from disrupting what was taking place.

16. **The crowd sternly spoke** – The crowd was caught up in the big moment rather than God’s purposes.

17. **Sternly told** – The crowd not only rebuked these men harshly they also threatened them.

18. **The crowd sternly spoke** – The crowd was caught up in the big moment rather than God’s purposes.

19. **Be quiet** – They wanted these men not just to stop shouting but to also calm down.

20. **Be quiet** – Because they sternly ask these men to be quiet shows how loud and disruptive these men were.

B. **Trust His Heart (vs. 30c & 31b; Philippians 2:1-2):**

1. **Have mercy** – Mercy means to extend kindness and compassion to a person who is experiencing unfortunate circumstances. They were asking for Christ sympathy because He knew that in this culture, they were nothing, even their family would leave them by the road all day so that they bring something home since they could not work. They were most likely going to live a life of poverty.

2. **Have mercy** – They did not ask to be healed they first asked for Christ heart.

   a) Matthew notes the compassion of Jesus at 14:14; 15:32, in both cases for the crowd. Both of these verses are paralleled in Mark, but Mark’s other reference to the compassion of Jesus (using σπλαγχθείς as here) was in his account of the healing of the leper (Mk. 1:40–45; here v. 41) and was not used by Matthew in his parallel in 8:3. For the healing of the blind people in 9:27–31 Matthew drew on Mk. 1:40–45 for various features, among them the use of touch, which is repeated here. Now he adds to that the compassion of Mk. 1:41.[2]

3. **Moved with compassion** – Christ was moved first because how desperate these men were to have their circumstances changed. It is similar to Paul instructing us to supplicate when our anxiety leads to desperation (Philippians 4:6-7).

4. **Moved with compassion** – Christ was moved from the inside out by these men faith and their desperate circumstances.

5. **Moved with compassion** – Their faith ignites the heart of Christ.

6. **Moved with compassion** – God is love. Christ heart takes over and moves Him.
7. **Jesus touch** – Jesus compassion led Him not to speak to their eyes but rather to open them with His touch.

8. **Jesus touch** – Jesus not just speak to these desperate despairing men, He touched them.

9. **Jesus touch** – Jesus heard their pain like the groans of their heart (Romans 8:26-27).

**C. Trust in God’s Ability (vs. 30c & 31b):**

1. **Lord** – These men by calling Jesus Lord demonstrated that they heard about Christ and believed everything they heard.

2. **Lord** – These men accepted that Jesus has the power and authority to take care of their need and He had the heart to want to help them.

3. **Son of David** – When the men shared their conviction a second time Christ stopped. Despite Christ need to get to Jerusalem before night fall and still have fifteen miles to walk (no place to lay His head) their need became greater because their faith in who He is demanded a response.

   a) The gospel of the King. Jesus Christ is the key to all of history. Matthew wanted to answer some basic questions about Him: who is He, is He really the Messiah prophesied in the OT. Matt 1:1 announced that the long-awaited event had arrived, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." The coming of Jesus culminates over 1000 years of prophecy. God is now speaking after 400 silent years, Hebrews 1:1-3.

4. **Son of David** – Again they confessed Christ deity and His humanity (1 John 4:2-3).

5. **Son of David** - These men believed that Jesus is the Messiah. They demonstrated respect for Christ right to the throne of David.

   a) Thou son of David. By this title they meant the Messiah. Previously Jesus had prohibited its public use, but now as He approaches Jerusalem, He is ready to claim it (cf. 21:16; Lk 19:40; Earlier two other blind men called Jesus “Son of David” (Matt. 9:27; cf. 15:22). By using this title, they were appealing to Him as Messiah.[3]

**D. Be Persistent (Vs. 31b; Philippians 4:6-7):**

1. **They cried out all the more** – The men shouted more boisterously, created an even greater disruption when the crowd rebuked them. It is obvious that they knew this is their only chance to be healed. Jesus has been in ministry three years and this is the only time He passed by, so they have to take full advantage of it. It is good that they did because Jesus is heading to die.

2. **They cried out all the more** – When our need is driven by faith, we become persistent.
3. Jesus stopped – These men boisterous shouting did not get Christ attention, only the crowd, but their faith caused Him to stop giving them His full attention.
5. Jesus stopped – Above the noise and a large crowd Jesus speaks.
6. Called them; cried – Above the crowd’s rebukes Jesus spoke loudly to these men.
7. Called them; cried – In the midst of a crowd Jesus definitively focused on the need of two blind men. The crowd never impressed Christ it was His call to live out John 3:16.
8. Called them – Christ called them to where He stood - Faith required obedience.
9. Want me to do – A person must come to grips with their need even when they recognize who Christ is.
10. Want me to do – This question “what do you want me to do,” demonstrates that they needed to acknowledge that Christ has the ability to take care of their need.
11. Want me to do – Before a large crowd a public confession of Christ heals.
12. They said to Him – They reply to Christ constantly repeating their need.
13. Lord – They continue to call Christ Lord.
14. They said to Him – The response to Christ was loud and repetitive this demonstrates their conviction.
15. Open – As Lord they asked Him to do what no one else can do; open their eyes.
16. Open – Because He is Lord these men believed Christ has the authority and power to do the impossible. They showed no doubt.
17. Open their eyes – They believed in that moment Christ had the power to heal them.
18. They regained their sight – Seeing for these blind men was immediate.
19. Follow Him – Biblical history does not show that these men became disciples of Christ but their response shows that He became their complete focus. They did not run home to tell everyone, they did not get up and dance and thank Him, their focus was all about where is Christ going and being involved in remaining with Him.
20. Follow Him – These men did not go home, they followed Christ.
21. Follow Him – These men demonstrated complete trust in Christ by accepting His leadership.
22. Follow Him – Their life had a new direction that Christ now controls.

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