

## Eyes Wide Open

Matthew 20:32-34 *And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.*

I remember a cat we had when I was a kid. She had several litters of kittens over the years. One thing was always strange to me. It was the fact that their eyes weren't open right away. Here were these adorable little kittens stumbling around with their eyes shut. I'm sure there's a "scientific" explanation for it, but still, there they are with eyes shut.

"Lord, let our eyes be opened." The two blind men were asking Jesus as he walked by them for a miracle. We're not told the whole story of their lives, but apparently they were loud and persistent. The disciples were trying to shush them before Jesus stopped to open their eyes. He had mercy on them and opened their eyes. They responded by following him.

Sometimes I think it would be easier to live life with my eyes shut. I don't want to see the pain and hurt that is all over the place. I'd rather not see the struggles sometimes because it hurts my heart to see them. My physical eyes can see the depth of sin in this world but even more painful is the sight of my spiritual eyes. My physical eyes have been open since birth. My spiritual eyes have been open since baptism, my re-birth. I've been able to see my own sin as well as some of the mess in the world for 34 years.

"Lord, let our eyes be opened." The two blind men were asking Jesus for a miracle. They wanted to see, physically. But they got so much more than that. Their spiritual eyes were opened when He touched them. They were able to see Him as He was, the Son of God. They followed Him. They could now see the mess of life around them, but even better, they could see the promise of life in Jesus.

Yes, it might be easier for us to close our eyes and pretend we don't see sin, our own or that of anyone else. But you can't follow Jesus with your eyes closed. This has nothing to do with physical sight. The physically blind are just as capable of spiritual sight as anyone with eyes that see. "Lord, let our eyes be opened." When the waters of baptism wash over the sin, scales fall from our eyes and we can see. We see the Gospel and the Law. Filled with the Holy Spirit and with eyes that can see, we follow Jesus.

Our prayer is no longer "open the eyes of my heart, Lord" but it is now, "keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Keep our eyes open. May we never stumble around like newborn kittens with eyes closed. As hard as it is to see all of the pain around, it is even more joyful to see Jesus in our midst, walking with us through the pain. We see Jesus, closing his eyes on the cross only to open them three days later so that we too can see.

*Heavenly Father, through your Son and through the Spirit, you open the eyes of your children. Through the Word, you allow us to see you. Keep our hearts and minds and eyes open to see both the pain and the joy. Keep us mindful of our place as stewards of your kingdom, so that we may serve you always, with eyes wide open. In Jesus' name, Amen.*