"As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

Sometimes "calling" means "summoning," as in Mark 12:43 – "Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."

Sometimes "calling" means "naming," as in John 5:18 – "For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."
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Sometimes we use the word "calling" to refer to a person's place or niche or role in life, or a person's occupation or vocation. Although the Bible does not use the noun form "calling" in this sense, it does use the verb form "called" in that way.

Sometimes "calling" refers to "the act of being summoned and actually brought into saving relationship with God through Christ," as in Ephesians 4:1 – "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received"; or as in 2 Thessalonians 1:11, where Paul says, "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling . . ."; or as in 2 Peter 1:10, where Peter writes: "Therefore my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For it you do these things, you will never fall."

It is in this sense – the act of being summoned and actually brought into saving relationship with God through Christ – that the gospel becomes effective in a person's life. <u>The good news of deliverance from sin and its consequences and to God's righteousness and its benefits becomes effective in a person's life through calling.</u>

This brings us to the third question of this lesson, which is:

III. WHY DO SOME PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL AND OTHERS DO NOT?

Actually, everyone who hears the gospel responds to it in one way or another. Some people respond positively and others respond negatively. So we are really asking why some respond positively and others do not.