

Wednesday Oct 23rd for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: God of Light, in today's Gospel you restore sight and light to the blind man, Bartimaeus. As we gather in your name, heal the blindness in our hearts. Give us a clearer vision to see you and your ways. Open our hearts now to hear your word and help us to respond to it with generosity. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."

- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

**READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Mark
Mk 10:46-52**

46 They came to Jericho.^a And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging.

47 On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."

48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me."

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you."

50 He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

51 Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."

52 Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Notes

* [10:46–52] See notes on Mt 9:27–31 and 20:29–34.

* [9:27–31] This story was probably composed by Matthew out of Mark's story of the healing of a blind man named Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46–52). Mark places the event late in Jesus' ministry, just before his entrance into Jerusalem, and Matthew has followed his Marcan source at that point in his gospel also (see Mt 20:29–34). In each of the Matthean stories the single blind man of Mark becomes two. The reason why Matthew would have given a double version of the Marcan story and placed the earlier one here may be that he wished to add a story of Jesus' curing the blind at this point in order to prepare for Jesus' answer to the emissaries of the Baptist (Mt 11:4–6) in which Jesus, recounting his works, begins with his giving sight to the blind.

* [9:27] Son of David: this messianic title is connected once with the healing power of Jesus in Mark (Mk 10:47–48) and Luke (Lk 18:38–39) but more frequently in Matthew (see also Mt 12:23; 15:22; 20:30–31).

* [9:32–34] The source of this story seems to be Q (see Lk 11:14–15). As in the preceding healing of the blind, Matthew has two versions of this healing, the later in Mt 12:22–24 and the earlier here.

* [9:34] This spiteful accusation foreshadows the growing opposition to Jesus in Mt 11 and 12.

* [20:29–34] The cure of the blind men is probably symbolic of what will happen to the disciples, now blind to the meaning of Jesus' passion and to the necessity of their sharing his suffering. As the men are given sight, so, after the resurrection, will the disciples come to see that to which they are now blind. Matthew has abbreviated his Marcan source (Mk 10:46–52) and has made Mark's one man two. Such doubling is characteristic of this gospel; see Mt 8:28–34 (//Mk 5:1–20) and the note on Mt 9:27–31.

* [20:30] [Lord,]: some important textual witnesses omit this, but that may be because copyists assimilated this verse to Mt 9:27. Son of David: see note on Mt 9:27.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Can you think of something that your eyes of faith helped you to receive that you previously did not see?

2. What is one of the great 'eye-opening experiences' that you have ever had?
3. What is your general response to beggars?
4. In the Gospel, Bartimaeus shows great persistence in the face of opposition. What kind of situations call for you to be persistent? Would you say you are a persistent person?

Commentary

For several weeks, Jesus is on a journey to Jerusalem. As he travels, he acts as teacher, offering several lessons on the nature of true discipleship, and he speaks about his own identity and mission. For the most part, his disciples and would-be disciples are blind and uncomprehending. They simply "do not see." But, finally, we encounter one who does see, namely, Bartimaeus. First, he shows that he recognizes the true nature of Jesus by calling him "Son of David," a title reserved for the Messiah. After he receives his physical sight, he becomes a follower of Jesus: "He started to follow Jesus up the road." In contrast, the disciples do not know who Jesus is; they have not yet become true disciples. No doubt, it is Jesus' hope that in the presence of Bartimaeus (a new convert) in the midst of the disciples would help them to see who Jesus really is and also help them to become true disciples of Jesus, surrendering everything to follow him.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, Oct 23 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 23, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607