

October 27, 2024  
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Mark 10: 46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. 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." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

### **Background:**

In last week's Gospel James and John approached Jesus saying, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." They were asking for the seats of honor and power when Jesus comes into his glory. In his response, Jesus told them that Gentile rulers lord their power over those under them and make their importance felt by those under them. In contrast, He has come to be a servant, not to be served, and to give his life in ransom for the many. This week's Gospel text follows immediately after that text in Mark. The text portrays Jesus as living out being of service to the least, as he has instructed his disciples to do.

Bartimaeus is very clever in how he has made his request. No doubt he has heard of Jesus' reputation for healing, and therefore he shouts out repeatedly, "Son of David, have pity on me." By calling Jesus the "Son of David," he is acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah, and links him with Solomon, the son of David. Solomon was known as a wise and competent ruler. Second, by asking for mercy, Bartimaeus is asking that he be given what is he owed. The debt that he established and needs to be repaid is the repeated public praise that the blind man has already offered by calling out that Jesus is the "Son of David."

Assuming that the large crowd would block Bartimaeus from Jesus' view, Jesus calls him over. The crowd, who are usually mindless in the Gospels, move from trying to silence Bartimaeus to encouraging him to approach Jesus. Jesus asks what he would have him do for him. Bartimaeus tells Jesus that he wants to see. Jesus tells him that his faith has saved him, and to go on his way. Now Bartimaeus is in debt both to God who restored his sight and to Jesus who acted as the servant of God. In recognition of his debt, Bartimaeus now joins Jesus as he makes his way to Jerusalem.

Recall the Gospel from two weeks ago, with the story known as the Rich Young Man. The man came to Jesus asking what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Although he had kept the commandments since his youth, he was unable to accept Jesus' invitation to come and follow him because he had many possessions. The Gospel says that he went away sad. (Mark 10:17-30) However, Bartimaeus, when he learns that Jesus is calling him, throws off his cloak, springs up, and comes to Jesus, never to look back. Beggars usually spread their cloak before them to collect coins that were tossed in their direction. Imagine Bartimaeus being blind and hearing Jesus calling him, jumping up to respond to Jesus' invitation, and the coins he had collected flying in different directions. The contrast between the responses of the two men to Jesus' invitation is part of the instruction on the nature of being one of Jesus' disciples.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What is your experience of people with physical disabilities?
2. How do you understand the crowd's interaction with Bartimaeus?
3. What happens within you when the text continues with Bartimaeus ignoring the crowd and continuing to call out?
4. What happens within you when Jesus calls him over?

5. What happens within you when Bartimaeus tells Jesus he wants to see?
6. Have you ever felt like what you wanted ask God for wasn't important, or that others had greater needs?
7. Who has been a voice to you saying, "Take courage, get up, he is calling you?"
8. Have you been that voice for another?
9. And if Jesus were then to turn to you and ask you by name, "What would like me to do for you," what would you say?
10. Can you talk with God honestly about whatever this Gospel text is saying to you at this point in your life?

The Gospel background and reflection questions are written by Fr. Paul Gallagher, OFM. They are edited by Sister Anne Marie Lom, OSF and Joe Thiel. The excerpts from the Sunday readings are prepared by Joe Thiel. To be added to the distribution list, send your name and email address to [annemarie.lom@gmail.com](mailto:annemarie.lom@gmail.com)

Our Gospel Reflections are hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Their homepage is <https://fscs-calledtobe.org/>. One link there is labeled Franciscan Gospel Reflections. A click on the icon will take you to the Gospel reflections for the upcoming Sunday. By following this link, you will be able to blog or comment on the reflection questions. The material will be posted on Fridays and will be available until the following Friday when the new material is posted.

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### **Excerpts from the readings for October 27, 2024, the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Thus says the Lord: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations;  
proclaim your praise and say: The Lord has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel.  
Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north;  
I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst,  
the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng.  
They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them;  
I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble.  
For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.  
When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.  
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert.  
Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.  
Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown,  
They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

Brothers and sisters: Every high priest is taken from among men  
and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you; just as he says in another place: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

### **Excerpts from Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126:1-6; Hebrews 5:1-6; and Mark 10:46-52**

Friends,

Here are the gospel background and reflection questions for October 27th, as prepared by Franciscan spiritual director Fr. Paul Gallagher. In the gospel from Mark, blind Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stops and says, "Call him," and so they do. Bartimaeus throws aside his cloak, springs up, and comes to Jesus, saying, "Master, I want to see." When Jesus responds, "Go your way; your faith has saved you," his sight is immediately returned, and he follows Jesus on the way.

The other readings have additional references to His people being called by God, brought back, restored, and delivered from adversity, including the blind. In the first reading from Jeremiah, thus says the Lord: "Proclaim your praise and say: The Lord has delivered his people. Behold, I will bring them back; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst." Psalm 126 exclaims, "When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming, filled with rejoicing." In the second reading, from the letter to the Hebrews, we hear, "Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God. It was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but the one who called him 'son.'"

There are further references to the joy experienced in the returning, in contrast to the tears at their departure. In today's first reading, the Lord declares, "They departed in tears, but I will console them, and guide them." The psalm says, "Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves."

Joe

> i < May the Word light your way each day!