

### 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

For us, God is the source of great comfort, hope, and consolation. To love God is to acknowledge the source of meaning and purpose of our existence, to embrace the truth, to wonder and admire at what God has done. Believing in God does not make us anxious or worried but encourages us. He challenges us to love one another so that we bring happiness not only in our lives but also in the lives of our neighbors. He gives us comfort, when we are sad, gives peace when desperate and hope when in trouble. He gives us joy and blessings when we live our life according to his will.

When Jesus called Bartimaeus, he threw aside his cloak and came forward to meet Jesus. It represented Bartimaeus casting off his old life, in order to take up a new life of discipleship. Part of the requirement for being a disciple of Jesus was to give up belongings, which this blind beggar quickly does. This indeed was the moment of hope for him. He seemed to be sure of receiving his sight. So Bartimaeus gives a very simple answer to Jesus that he may have his vision so that he may see. This was a very simple question and Jesus receives a humble and simple reply. Jesus responds to him with affection and says that he is going to receive his sight. Once the blind man receives his sight, he followed Christ to become a disciple of Jesus.

Certainly, Bartimaeus did not see what miracles Jesus had previously done, but still he believed. The only thing the blind man knew was that the man who passed by was Jesus of Nazareth, the healer. Hearing him passing by, the simple human faith of Bartimaeus was transformed into a divine faith, a faith which surpasses all things. He professed his faith in the Son of God and called him the Savior of the world. Bartimaeus was not afraid, although several attempted to silence him, but he shouted even more. His faith inspired him to ask from the Lord, what he wanted him to do. Jesus respected and accepted his faith and did the healing.

The request of the blind man is a model prayer for us: “*ask and you shall receive*”, we receive whatever we ask God in faith. We ask the Lord in faith for something we need and the Lord will grant it to us. Perhaps Jesus had seen the blind beggar several times as he went about preaching and the blind man must have been busy collecting alms from people. Only, when the blind man opened himself in faith and asked the Lord for healing then he received the gift of sight, and the greater gift is to become his disciple.

Like Bartimaeus we too may be busy sometimes collecting petty alms and worthless donations and have not collected the real graces from the Lord. This episode is a summary of the Christian’s life and pilgrimage. While physical sight is desirable, spiritual sight is an absolute necessity for our salvation. In order to have this spiritual sight, we must pray to Jesus and say, Lord, my God, let me see again. Only when we receive spiritual sight, then we come to know and understand that “the wisdom of this world is nothing with God.”

As Christians, we must have our eyes opened to the meaning of life, if we get to undergo a radical conversion experience, let’s go because it gives a new direction to all of what we do. Bartimaeus believed in the word of God, which was revealed to him internally, that Jesus is the Son of God and he was healed. We who believe in Jesus, may He give us his divine life through this Eucharist celebration and help us to see the world with the spiritual sight.

Let us pray that this Eucharistic celebration will touch our hearts and we who have been spiritually blind, so that we will find the strength in Christ to walk away from what destroys our faith. Let us also pray for the grace of God to shine on those in need, so that their eyes will be opened and remain opened to faith and to the love of Jesus.