

Living the Word

MEDITATING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Year B - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A resource for personal, family and community prayer.



“Go; your faith has saved you.”

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

You are invited to read the Gospel passage attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.

⁴⁶As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and say, “Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.”

⁴⁸And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, “Son of David, have pity on me.”

⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, “Call him here.” So they called the blind man. “Courage, they said, “get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus spoke, “What do you want me to do for you?” “Rab-buni,” the blind man said to him, “Master, let me see again.” ⁵²Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has saved you.” And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

Background to Gospel passage

Where does it happen? Jesus is leaving Jericho. The town of Jericho is approximately fifty kilometres from Jerusalem- a two or three day walk.

When does it happen? This is the last recorded healing encounter before Jesus enters into Jerusalem.

Who is there? Bartimaeus- the son of Timaeus. He is a blind man who has to resort to begging for his survival. A large crowd accompanying Jesus and his disciples.

What happens? Jesus sees and hears the pain of those people who, like the blind Bartimaeus, are sometimes ignored, looked down on or brushed aside. Unlike the crowd, he hears the blind man’s persistent cry for help and he is moved by the courage and eagerness with which he throws off his cloak and gets to his feet. He builds up the man’s dignity by letting him speak for himself. Having restored his sight, Jesus acknowledges that the faith of Bartimaeus has been integral to his healing.

Suggested Guidelines to help you recognise this passage in your life experience.

“Bartimaeus... a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road.”

Can you remember a time when you were feeling left out, unwanted and lonely? Who was the 'Jesus person' who heard your cry for help, befriended you and give you a sense of belonging once more?

“ ‘Courage’, they said, ‘get up, he is calling you’.”

Can you recognize 'Jesus people' in society who befriend and work with the blind, the deaf, the disabled, the outsider, the rejected, the lonely, the stranger and the immigrant, helping them to feel valued and included?

“So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus.”

Can you remember someone whose presence inspired you to let go of feelings of inadequacy and imperfection and enter more fully into life?

“Go; your faith has saved you.”

Remember an experience of being in the presence of someone considered to be of great importance and you were humbled by how special they made you feel and how much they affirmed your value and dignity.

What does this gospel remind me of? Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?

Now I see that God was in that life experience!

Prayer Response - you are invited to respond in prayer in your own words.

Heavenly Father, I thank you...

Heavenly Father, I am sorry...

Heavenly Father, please help me...



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to stillness and silence.

An Invitation to Reflect

What new insight has the Gospel opened my eyes to see?

Action

This week I will try to live the Gospel by...

Thought for the week

Respect for a person's dignity is crucial for their complete healing.

Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.

Children



Jesus is stopped by a blind man who believes that Jesus can heal him. Jesus is amazed and heals him. Jesus teaches his disciples to have trust in Him, just like the blind man trusted him.

Can you think of a 'Jesus person' in your life, a grandparent, parent or teacher, who encouraged you to trust Jesus?

Draw or write about this 'Jesus person' and how they encouraged you to trust Jesus.



Father, I thank you for the gift of this story which has opened my eyes to see the importance of trusting in Your Son.

Action: this week I will try to show love by...

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