

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark (Mark 10:46-52)

Blind Bartimaeus receives his sight

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and His disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ He is Calling me

Son of David, have mercy on me! Bartimaeus was blind, down and out, belonging to the lower strata of his society. Being in the pitiful state that he was in, he could only earn a living by begging. To onlookers he was just a nuisance, somebody useless. So when he shouted out, those around rebuked him and told him to shut up. However, unlike many around him, Bartimaeus had faith of an unshakeable type. When Bartimaeus called out 'Son of David' he was proclaiming in public the Messiah that Jesus really is. Many people around him had thought Jesus was a mere prophet but Bartimaeus was different. His open heart benefited from the light of divine revelation. Though physically blind, Bartimaeus had extraordinary faith and the holy boldness to proclaim it even when others around him were trying to silence him. For a blind man to go against a crowd was not an easy thing. Am I bold like Bartimaeus in proclaiming my faith to those around me when the situation calls for it? Am I easily intimidated and silenced by those around me who had no time for God?

God's high purpose for the life of Bartimaeus. If Bartimaeus had not been blind, he would probably not be sitting at the roadside when Jesus passed. God had a high purpose for the life of Bartimaeus even though onlookers may think Bartimaeus's life was sad and useless. It was God's will that he was a herald for the Messiah. A voice proclaiming the truth where it was suppressed. A candlelight shining into the darkness. He was born so that God's glory could shine into the lives of others around him. God has a high purpose for every soul He created, including mine. Without realising this, my life has no purpose, no direction, no real meaning. *Rabbi I want to see!* Am I able to see the hand of God in my life? Through the trials and difficulties in my life, am I able to see the direction the Lord is leading me?

He's calling you. Bartimaeus's perseverance in faith paid off. Jesus had heard him the first time but He wanted Bartimaeus to demonstrate his perseverance in faith. He wanted Bartimaeus to really convince himself that he needed Jesus. Jesus too is calling me. I need to respond in the same way as Bartimaeus. I need to pay no attention to the detractors around me who discourage me and think faith is a waste of time. Like Bartimaeus, I need to throw off my 'cloak' and everything else that hinders the speed of my response to the calling of my Lord. Am I able to hear the Lord calling? Do I want to hear Him calling? Am I tuned in to the Lord through sincere prayers, a generous spirit and reflection of His Word in the quiet of my heart? Is my own self-will drowning out the soft promptings of Holy Spirit in my soul?

Conversation with Our Lord

Precious Lord, I too am blind like Bartimaeus but in a spiritual way. My faith is weak, my love for You paltry and I am distracted by the things of this world. Lord I would like to respond to Your calling like Bartimaeus, with alacrity and promptness. Please do not grow tired of calling me. Fulfil the purpose You have for my life for the glory of Your Name. Give me a faith so strong that it can never be stifled by any discouragement. Give me a sincere love for You so ardent that it can never turn cold at any suffering or trial. Help me to draw those that You entrust to my care to the lasting joy of Your Kingdom. I know I'm called to share in Your Mission, to do my unique part in your Grand Plan of Salvation. Immaculate Heart of Mary, please intercede for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.