



Scripture nugget - Master, I want to see (cf. Mark 10:51).

They came to Jericho. 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. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." 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 (Mark 10:46, 47, 51, 52).

The ability to see things at their true, eternal worth is wisdom given by God through faith.

Bartimaeus, the blind man was persistent in calling out to Jesus as he wanted badly to be healed of his physical blindness. Eventually, he was rewarded and gained his eyesight through faith in Christ. Physical blindness is a terrible impediment but spiritual blindness is worse as it can lead a soul to eternal damnation through wrong choices taken in life. The world espouses values that are contrary to our Christian faith. *Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world (1 John 2:15-16).* Thus, St John gives us a timely warning against the lure of worldly things. Unfortunately, many souls spend much of their lives laboring for things that have no bearing for attaining their eternal salvation. They have no time to develop a loving relationship with God as they are in bondage to worldly concerns and the lure of worldly things. Christ urges us to work for food that endures for eternal life (cf. John 6:27). Christ is the Bread of Life Which will satisfy our inner hunger and inner thirst (cf. John 6:35). Through overcoming the temptation in the desert in which Satan took Him to a high mountain peak and tempted Him with all the glory and allurements of the world, Jesus merits the grace for us to be free from bondage to earthly attractions and allurements. Thus, we have the spiritual freedom to worship and adore God as He deserves.

Things that blur our spiritual vision. Pride is a pernicious sin and is the worst enemy of souls. Pride blinds us to the truth, feeds our ego and reinforces the fallen human nature to place self-interest foremost. It is difficult for a prideful soul to denounce himself, pick up his cross and follow Christ. However, this is what we need to do if we want to walk in Christ's footsteps. Pride blinds us to our sins and diminishes our holy fear and reverence of God. Without self-knowledge and acknowledgement of one's sins, the grace of repentance cannot be received by a prideful soul who is complacent about his spiritual condition and relationship with God. Weak faith and human sentimentality lead us to think not as God does but as human beings without faith do. Thus, St Peter unwittingly discouraged the Lord from fulfilling His mission when he realized Jesus would be killed (cf. Matthew 16:22-23). Once we do not focus on God's will, human concerns take over, and we are not on the true path.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, like Bartimaeus, I call out to You: please open my eyes! Give me wisdom and discernment to see earthly things at their true worth and my faults and weaknesses that I have not acknowledged. Help me overcome all earthly bondages, rise and work for things that are eternal and will help merit a place in Your glorious Kingdom where I will share Your glory and be a co-heir. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.