

GOSPEL

Mark 10:46-52

As 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. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And 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.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

HOMILY OF ST JOHN PAUL II

24 October 1982 (Translated, Excerpt)

Here in the Gospel is a man who could not see, the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus (cf. Mk 10:46), and on his lips the cry: "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!" (Ibid., v. 47). Jesus asked him: "What do you want me to do for you?" The answer: "Rabboni, that I may see!" (Ibid., v. 51). The words of Jesus: "Go, your faith has saved you" (Ibid., v. 52). And after the words — the miracle. Bartimaeus sees the world, the world created by God, the world that the Creator offered to human eyes, hands, and thoughts.

And Bartimaeus in today's Gospel adheres to the words of the Psalm: "The Lord has done great things for me!"

The Lord has done great things for us!

The restoration of sight to the blind man is a sign. One of many signs that Christ performed to open the sight of the soul to his hearers, so that they might see with it that the Lord had changed the fortunes of Zion, so that they might see within themselves and discern how "great things the Lord has done" for man, not only through the work of creation, but even more through the work of Redemption.

How "great a thing" it is that "the Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel," as we read in the book of the prophet Jeremiah (cf. 31:7).

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life," according to the words of the Gospel of Saint John (3:16).

How "great a thing" is the Incarnation, the Redemption through the cross and resurrection, the sanctification through the sending of the Spirit, the Paraclete!

It is only necessary that the eyes of the human soul be opened to all this, and that man see it!

4. Man must open his eyes and see, with the eyes of faith, Christ, who is the Mediator and Priest of the new and eternal Covenant. The Letter to the Hebrews speaks to us today of this Mediator and Priest: "Chosen from among men, he is appointed to act on behalf of men in things pertaining to God" (5:1).

—is constituted

"to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins" (ib.)

— is constituted

to "have compassion on the ignorant and those who err (5, 2).

And behold, Christ "makes Himself" such a Mediator and Priest — and He truly is! And this was done by the Father, who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You" (5:5) — and in another passage: "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek" (5:6).

Bartimaeus, miraculously cured of blindness, opened his eyes and saw Jesus, the Son of David, before him.

Let us open the eyes of our faith to see Christ in the full light of the Gospel. And seeing with the eyes of faith Him who is Mediator and Priest—the only Mediator and Priest between God and men, and Priest according to the order of Melchizedek—let us repeat once more, and let us do so with the greatest rapture and the greatest strength of conviction:

The Lord has done great things for us!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you from the Gospel or Reflection/ Homily?



Head: How would seeing everyone as "mattering to Jesus" change the way we treat each other?



Heart: Share a short story of gratitude for something God has done in your life. You might like to start with, "The Lord has done great things for me!"



Hands: Turning to other members of your Faith Circle, take a few moments to express gratitude for something about them (e.g. "I'm grateful that they share so openly" "I'm grateful they make the time to be here" etc)

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another:

1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/ describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (for example, "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
3. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others' prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps praying the 'Glory Be'.