

Read

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126:1- 2, 2-3,
4-5, 6

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

LIVING THE WORD

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 28, 2018



REFLECTION

Have you ever felt embarrassed by someone else's behavior? Sometimes this embarrassment is justified and other times the person with the odd behavior has no clue how they are impacting the community. Pausing to listen can often eliminate any preconceived notions. Just as the disciples rebuke Jesus for listening to the blind man as he begs Jesus to have pity on him, we too are called to pause and consider someone else's needs. Judgment of another person can unfortunately cause pain and sadness and we miss out on the gift that is most certainly present. For the disciples, it was the unwavering faith of the blind man that stops them in their tracks as Jesus welcomes his sight and faith.



ACTION

Reflect on a recent encounter with someone you judged. What were their needs? Why did you judge this person so harshly? Did their unique gifts feel threatening to your sense of reality? If this person is someone you see on a regular basis, consider how you might view him or her with more compassion. If it was someone you do not see on a regular basis, consider the origins of your judgement and say a prayer for the person you judged as well as a prayer for your growth.

*God our Father,
may we always follow Jesus,
your Son,
and never judge, condemn,
or neglect others.
May we always reach out to
people in love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Where in your life do you need courage to stand up to a judgement?
- ❖ If Jesus invited you to follow him today, would you? Why or why not?



October 28, 2018

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #149B

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

As we near the end of the Church year, the Gospel becomes stronger in the message of recognizing the Messiah. This Sunday, we hear of the blind Bartimaeus calling to Jesus from the side of the road. If Jesus came into the world today, would we recognize him or would we be blind?

Q FOCUS: *To follow Christ into new life.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Before October ends, it seems fitting to remember that Catholics dedicate the entire month to the Holy Rosary. This popular devotion has been part of Church life for eight centuries, being "given" to St. Dominic by Mary in 1201. The complete Rosary, including the Sorrowful, Joyful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries, is encouraged as a mediation on the life of Jesus. While the Rosary is technically a private devotion, many parishes host the Rosary on a regular basis, such as after weekday Masses, or outdoors in a Marian plaza.

Church Teaching Connection

"Prayer to *Jesus* is answered by him already during his ministry, through signs that anticipate the power of his death and Resurrection: Jesus hears the prayer of faith, expressed in words (the leper, Jairus, the Canaanite woman, the good thief) or in silence (the bearers of the paralytic, the woman with a hemorrhage who touches his clothes, the

tears and ointment of the sinful woman). The urgent request of the blind men, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David' or 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' has been renewed in the traditional prayer to Jesus known as the *Jesus Prayer*: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!" Healing infirmities or forgiving sins, Jesus always responds to a prayer offered in faith: 'Your faith has made you well; go in peace'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2616. See also Mark 1:40-41; 5:36; 7:29; Luke 23:39-43; Mark 2:5; 5:28; Luke 7:37-38; Matthew 9:27, Mark 10:48).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

As Jesus 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." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. 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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

▶ Whom does Jesus help in this Sunday's Gospel? What does Jesus do for him?

▶ What does Jesus say cured Bartimaeus the blind man? his faith?

▶ How do you think Bartimaeus' life was different after he was cured?

Today's Gospel speaks of physical blindness, but there are many other ways that people are blinded, or fail to see things properly.

▶ Can you think of any other ways in which people might be blind?

▶ Have you ever been blind to something? What helped you see?

In the Gospel, Jesus doesn't take credit for curing Bartimaeus. Instead, he says that Bartimaeus' faith healed him.

▶ Why do you think Jesus says this?

▶ How did Bartimaeus demonstrate his faith through his actions?

Bartimaeus's faith is demonstrated in his total trust in Jesus. He cries out to Jesus. Everyone tells him to be quiet, but he keeps calling out for Jesus anyway. He knows that Jesus can heal him.

▶ When have you called out for Jesus in your life? Did anyone tell you to stop calling out?

▶ Were they able to stop you?

▶ Did Jesus hear you and help you to “see” again? How?

We hear that Bartimaeus was sitting by the side of the road begging when Jesus passed by. In Jesus' time, this was the normal way of life for a person with a physical disability like blindness. Blind people couldn't work, and so they had to resort to begging on the streets for food.

▶ How do you think having his sight restored helped Bartimaeus' life to change? What things were possible for him that would not have been possible before?

▶ In times when you have been “blind” to something, how has having your “sight” restored helped your life to change? What new possibilities were you able to see as a result of your faith?

Prayer can take many forms. We might think of prayer as something that is silent or very quiet, but it can be loud, too. Bartimaeus' cry to Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel is an example of how Jesus hears the prayers of the faithful and responds.

▶ Can you think of any other examples in Scripture when Jesus hears the prayer of someone and responds? (Examples: the leper, Jairus, the Canaanite woman, the good thief, the bearers of the paralytic, the woman with the hemorrhage who touches Jesus' garment.)

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 54.

When have you been blind to things going on around you?

When have you cried out to Jesus for help? What happened?

In what ways can you use your voice to cry out like Bartimaeus against injustices in your community?

Act on the Word

The Road to Holiness

You may want to have candles or quiet, reflective music to help you lead this guided meditation. You may also want to have blindfolds.

Dim the lights or light candles and play quiet, reflective music as you lead this guided meditation. To begin the meditation, have the teens close their eyes. You might distribute blindfolds and have them blindfold themselves.

Imagine that you are sitting in a familiar, busy place. Maybe you are in front of your locker in the hallway at school, or in the food court at the mall. You are blind right now, and cannot see. What do you hear around you? What do you smell? What are your hands touching? What reverberations can you feel through the ground? *(Pause for a few moments.)* Now, you can tell that something is different. Someone important is coming your way. You realize that it is Jesus! There are a lot of people coming along with him. Everyone is excited, and is running to see him. You can't really tell where he is, but you know you need him. So you just start crying out. What words do you say to him? *(Pause for a few moments again.)* Just when you are becoming afraid that he passed by without noticing you, you hear Jesus' voice in response. What does he say to you? *(Pause.)* Jesus comes to sit near you. He puts his hand on your shoulder so that you can tell he is there. You tell him about the big areas of need that you have right now. Let's sit quietly for a few moments while you tell Jesus about the big areas of need in your life. *(Pause.)* What does Jesus have to say to you about your life right now? How are you healed by Jesus' presence? *(Pause.)* Then, suddenly,

your eyes are opened again. You can see everything going on around you. You can see Jesus. What do you see? *(Pause.)* How do you feel? *(Pause.)* Jesus tells you that your faith has healed you and continues to move on. You say goodbye to Jesus. *(Pause.)* Let's take a few more moments to be with Jesus and reflect on the areas of blindness in our lives. When you are ready, open your eyes or remove your blindfold. Give the teens some time to readjust, and then raise the lights and turn off the music. If anyone would like to share something about his or her time of prayer, let him or her do so. Point out that what you visualized together is what happens every time we pray. We call out to Jesus in our blindness, and Jesus hears us and helps us to see.

Closing Prayer

*Compassionate Father,
your Son gives sight to the blind
and calls the lowly to a life of discipleship.
May we be among those whose faith
is demonstrated
by a willingness to call out for healing and mercy.
Correct our vision,
so that we may see this world
according to your loving design.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For the Holyday of Obligation

To help teens prepare for the All Saints' Day Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.