

# Read

Jeremiah 31:7-9

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

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

## LIVING THE WORD

### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 24, 2021



#### REFLECTION

Imagine Bartimaeus sitting hunched over on the side of the road. A cloak covers his body, hiding his true self from the world. He is different. The world doesn't always accept different. But when Jesus walks by, Bartimaeus risks calling out. He believes in Christ's power to heal and make whole. Bartimaeus wants nothing more than this. He doesn't want to spend his life covered up in darkness, making himself small and staying stationary on the side of the road. Bartimaeus wants to live and move and have his being. Christ can make this possible.

So the blind man cries out—and the crowd gets uncomfortable. Be quiet, they say. Stay seated. Stay small. But Bartimaeus, determined, kept calling. He shouted louder, with hope that caused the Son of God to stop. Jesus listened.

"Call him," Jesus demanded of his disciples (Mark 10:49). Imagine Jesus saying, "I want this man to be all he was created to be. I want him to see! I want him to have life and light!" Isn't this what God wants for all of us? Moved by his call, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Neither his world—nor ours—would never be the same.



#### ACTION

Sit on the ground, and if able, pull your knees to your chest. Bury your head into your lap. Close your eyes. Make your body small. Then take note of how it feels to be scrunched up and in the dark. After staying small for a few minutes, slowly stand up. Stretch your arms wide. Kick out your legs. Jump around. Reflect on these two experiences in prayer this week.



Try this imaginative  
contemplation exercise:

<https://soundcloud.com/pray-as-you-go/imaginative-contemplation-jesus-the-healing-of-bartimaeus>



#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ How does it feel to give your body all the space it needs to be in the world?
- ❖ In what ways is Jesus calling you to stand up and see?



October 24, 2021

# THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LECTIONARY #149B

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalms 126:1-2a, 2b-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

Today we will reflect on three lessons from the Gospel reading. First, we should be courageous and persistent in our prayer life and in our faith, as Bartimaeus was. He was willing to speak up despite others trying to silence him. If every Christian had such persistence in their life of faith, the world would be transformed. Another lesson we learn is found in Jesus' response when he recognizes and praises Bartimaeus' faith. Faith is an essential aspect of our Christian life. Finally, Bartimaeus' response of discipleship models our response of gratitude towards God in our own prayer life.

**Q FOCUS:** *We should be persistent in growing in our relationship with God.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

Today's Gospel is about Jesus healing a blind man. There are several times in the Gospel when this type of healing happens. The story of Jesus healing the man born blind (John 9) is used every Lent for those who are celebrating the scrutinies, which are a series of prayers and readings that help prepare the elect (those getting ready to be baptized at the Easter Vigil) for their baptism. After you reflect on today's Gospel, spend a few moments discussing how the lessons from today's Gospel would be helpful for those who are considering joining the faith.

### Church Teaching Connection

The Church teaches that there are five types of prayer. They include blessing and adoration, prayers of petition, intercessory prayers, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers of praise. All of these types of prayer are found in our celebration of the Mass. Also, most of our personal prayers will not be exclusively one type or another, but a combination of them. All prayer leads us to a deeper relationship with God (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2623-2649).

## 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:*

Today's Gospel teaches us several important lessons. The first is the importance of persistence in our relationship with God. Early in the reading, Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, only to be scolded by others. But he continues to call out. What might have happened had he listened and stayed silent? Would he still have been healed, or would he have remained blind for the rest of his life because of others wishing to get between him and Jesus? Bartimaeus was not mistaken in speaking out—he knew who he was talking to, and he knew what he needed. Still, others tried to silence his prayer. Sometimes in our own prayer or relationship with God, we don't have the best communication. Sometimes other people or other distractions get in the way of that relationship. But if we continue to reach out, then God will hear us because God is always attentive to our needs.

► Describe a time when you have had to be persistent. It doesn't have to relate to God or prayer. Were you successful in your persistence? What challenges did you face?

► How can you apply these lessons of persistence to our prayer life?

A second lesson we learn from this reading is that Jesus is always willing to reach out to us. He even asks us: “What can I do for you?” We may not always know the answer to that question ourselves. By expressing our needs and opening our hearts to God,

we allow the Holy Spirit to move within our lives and give us a greater understanding of what our prayer should be about. God always hears and answers our needs, though not necessarily in the way we expect.

► What are some of your prayer practices (do you pray with Scripture, pray with your family or a group of friends, go to church to pray, and so on)?

► How often do you feel that your prayers are answered?

A third lesson in today's Gospel is found in Bartimaeus' reaction to being healed. As soon as he receives his sight, he immediately begins to follow Jesus on the way. As Jesus says, Bartimaeus already had faith in Jesus. But his immediate reaction upon receiving his deepest desire to see is to answer his call of discipleship. When your prayers are answered, do you express gratitude to God? Often, it can be easy for us to see our prayers answered and take it for granted or choose to believe that it was simply a coincidence. But when we encounter God's blessings in our lives, we are called to recognize it and be grateful. The best way to respond to God is by choosing to be God's blessing to others, by caring for our neighbors and reaching out to them in love.

► What are some ways you can respond to God when he answers your prayers?

► How might you respond if God's answer is not the way you wanted things to turn out?

## 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 50.*

Bartimaeus gives us an example of why we have to be persistent in our relationship God.

Jesus shows us that our faith plays an important role in our relationship with God.

Bartimaeus' response of discipleship to Jesus' healing is a model for our response to God.

# Act on the Word

## Enter into the Story

Today's activity is based on a type of Ignatian prayer, sometimes also referred to as imaginative prayer.

To begin the activity, invite the students to spread out in the gathering space and find a comfortable posture to enter into this time of prayer. They can be sitting or lying down, but be sure to have adult leaders keep an eye out to make sure the teens are using this time appropriately. Once they are settled in, read the following instructions:

"I am going to reread today's Gospel passage. As I read this, slowly and deliberately, I ask each of you to place yourselves within this scene. You could be one of Bartimaeus, or one of the disciples, or even the person of Jesus himself. Take a moment now to consider whose role you feel called to be within this scene." Pause for twenty to thirty seconds.

Continue, saying, "As I read through this passage, place yourself in the story. Ask yourself what time of day it is, what the temperature and weather are like. What do things look or sound like within the story? As you place yourself further into the story, allow yourself to reflect on your role within the text. What is said? How does this make you feel, and how do you respond?"

Proceed to read the passage aloud, very slowly and with deliberate pause between each thought/sentence. After the reading has concluded, allow two to three minutes of silent reflection.

After that time, invite the young people to share their experience. Who were they within the scene? What did they notice, and what did they do? How did they feel at different points within the scene? At the end of the activity, invite the young people to use this type of imaginative prayer throughout the coming week, reflecting on next week's Gospel reading or another passage of their choosing. Encourage them to reflect on their experience by writing in their journals or telling a family member about it.

## 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 who faith  
is demonstrated  
by a willingness to call out for healing  
and mercy.  
Correct our vision, Lord,  
so that we may see this world  
according to your loving design.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's 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](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.