

Jeremiah 31:7-9

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

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2024

LECTIONARY #348
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52



REFLECTION

Today's Gospel centers around the physical healing of blind Bartimaeus and concludes with Jesus affirming the faith that saved him. We also see in this story the importance of treating others with dignity and respect. When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, he is repeatedly shushed by the crowd, yet he persists in his belief that Jesus can help him. Bartimaeus might be blind, but the crowd is spirituality blind to the worth of every person. Instead of responding directly to Bartimaeus, Jesus modeled the correct attitude with which the crowd should have interacted with Bartimaeus, treating him as a person who is inherently worthy of dignity, kindness, and compassion. Jesus instructs the crowd to call the man to him and they do so, despite having just ignored him. Jesus further demonstrates the way we should treat others by asking Bartimaeus what he wants, rather than assuming what his desires are. In this, Jesus affirms the dignity of Bartimaeus and offers him an opportunity to articulate his faith.



ACTION

We can be spiritually blind to the ways in which we hurt and exclude others, especially people with disabilities. It helps if someone gently draws our attention to the mistake and corrects it like Jesus did, but that requires us to be both humble and receptive. We should also be proactive by learning what we can and asking questions when we don't understand things. Take this to prayer this week. Whether you pray for God to open your eyes or you pray for forgiveness, repeatedly praying the Jesus Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.") can help change your attitude to be more like Christ's and give you the strength to proclaim and live your faith, as Bartimaeus did.



"Lord, I Need You"—

Matt Maher <https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA>



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ How does the spiritual blindness of mainstream society continue affect people with disabilities today?
- ❖ Do you tend to make assumptions about what people need or do you ask them directly? Which do you feel is more respectful and why?



October 27, 2024

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's Gospel gives us a story of faith and courage. A blind man named Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus to be healed. He has heard of Jesus and believes, sight unseen. The crowd tries to silence him, but he persists in his belief that Jesus can heal him. When called to come to Jesus, the blind man moves with purpose, springing to his feet. He knows what he desires of the Lord and has boldness in his heart. Jesus tells him that his faith has made him well. The young people will have the opportunity to think about the ways Bartimaeus provides a model for their own discipleship, that they be full of faith, hope, joy, and trust.

Q FOCUS: *Pray in faith and trust in the Lord.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week the Church celebrates the solemnity of All Saints (November 1) and the commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) (November 2). A session for All Saints can be found on pages 57-60. Unlike All Saints, All Souls is not a holyday of obligation but it is still an important celebration to keep because it reminds us of our own mortality, the need to pray for all who have died, and our hope in eternal life with God. The Church teaches that, just as we entrust our loved ones here on earth to God in prayer, so too can we entrust our departed

loved ones into God's care after their death. We pray in hope that they will be welcomed into God's eternal light. We also pray that our own lives may reflect that heavenly light while we are still on earth.

Church Teaching Connection

"It is Jesus in fact that you seek when you dream of happiness; he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; he is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is he who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal" (Pope John Paul II, 15th World Youth Day: Vigil of Prayer, 5).

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:

Have courage! Get up! Jesus is calling you! We all need to hear these words time and again throughout our lives.

► **What does it feel like to be afraid? How does your body react? How would you describe the experience of fear?**

Fear rules so many areas of our lives. We fear the dangers of the world, from threats of global war to violence in our own communities. We fear the future, with its unanswerable questions. We feel the fear of rejection, thinking ourselves not good enough, unwanted, and unloved. There are so many things other things that we might fear, even to the point of letting that fear control our lives.

Bartimaeus, the blind man in today's Gospel, also might have experienced some fear. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, the light of faith

came alive in his heart and moved him to speak up. He believed that the one who healed many others could heal him too. But how would Jesus notice him? He was afraid he would miss his chance to see and be seen. He was afraid that the crowd would swallow him up, that somehow he would be forgotten and overlooked. He was afraid that his miracle would pass him by.

But he had courage in his faith, even before Jesus called him. In the face of so many trying to quiet him, he remained firm in his belief in Jesus and kept calling to him. And then Jesus called for him! In doing this, Jesus affirmed Bartimaeus' courageous declaration of faith.

The crowd told Bartimaeus to take courage. Being courageous is to be strong in heart. It is to act for what is good and right even when we know the consequences of our actions might be painful or viewed with contempt by others. For Bartimaeus, his courage came from his faith. His faith did not necessarily wipe out all his fear. It may have still been there, but his hope was even more powerful.

► **When have you acted with courage? What are some examples of young people around the world and throughout history acting courageously?**

Just like Bartimaeus, we are called to take courage. The world needs the strength, idealism, and hope of young people. It needs the inspiration of you who are open to listening to the Holy Spirit. It needs you to act in accordance with what God calls you to. It needs the change that you bring when you follow Jesus on the way.

Consider how Bartimaeus acts when the Lord calls him. He jumps to his feet, casts aside everything, and goes to the Lord. He has enthusiasm, he is filled with life. Bartimaeus shows us what it is like to pray with expectant joy, to cry out to Jesus even when others try to quiet us. He believes that Jesus can answer his prayers. His faith energizes him and gives him the boldness to ask for what he deeply desires.

We, too, can approach God with confidence. We can bring to him our deepest fears and our deepest desires. We can trust him and place all our faith in him. Take courage! Jesus is calling you to have faith!

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.

We will face many fears in our lives, but Jesus is always with us.

Faith helps us overcome our fears and leads us to rely on Jesus.

Let your actions reflect your faith and trust in Jesus; don't be afraid!

Act on the Word

Blindfold Bartimaeus

For this activity, you will need a clear room without many desks or chairs, a blindfold, and a chair.

In this fun activity, the young people will engage in the story of Bartimaeus. After the game, they will have time to reflect on how they can grow in their faith and trust in God.

Before beginning the activity, clear a large space in the room so there are no obstacles in the way. Give the teens an overview of the activity and the various roles and then select one teen to be "Bartimaeus" and one teen to be that person's guide. Have Bartimaeus and the guide step out of the room, where they will put the blindfold on Bartimaeus. While they are out of the room, the rest of the teens should place one chair somewhere in the empty space. The goal will be for them to direct Bartimaeus to the chair with verbal cues. Divide the teens who are in the room into two groups. Group A (the Encouragers) will give directions to Bartimaeus to help that person get to the chair (Jesus). Group B (the Distractors) will talk over Group A, to try to distract Bartimaeus from achieving the goal. (Note, the Distractors should not give any directions, it is hard enough already being blindfolded!) The guide's role is to make sure Bartimaeus doesn't run into anything and to give a helping hand when needed so that everyone is safe. The guide should not direct Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus will listen to the directions and try to find the chair.

Once the room is set up and the groups are divided, invite Bartimaeus and the guide back in. Have the groups begin their directions and distractions. Once Bartimaeus has successfully reached the chair, that person will take off the blindfold and then the game can begin again with a different Bartimaeus and guide pair. The chair should be moved to a different position. If there is enough time, try to give everyone a chance to be Bartimaeus, the guide, and in each group.

After the game is finished, have a discussion as a group about what the young people experienced. What was it like to be blindfolded? What was it like to be the guide? How did it feel to encourage or distract the blindfolded person? How does this help them better understand the Gospel reading? Ask the teens to share what they learned about faith and trust in God.

Remind the teens that sometimes we might feel that we can't see God, that we don't know the way to him. There are many distractions in the world, but there are also many people who encourage us to find God. Close in prayer, beginning by asking the teens to think about the question, "What do you want Christ to do for you?" After a few moments in silence, invite the teens to either speak their request aloud or say it silently. Once everyone who would like to has spoken, close with the following prayer.

Closing Prayer

*Loving God,
you healed a disciple who
called out to you in faith.*

*Instill within us
the kind of faith that will move us
into your very presence.*

*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. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.