

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy's efforts for some time the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell.

Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

Dear Friends,

Today's readings help us to reflect a lot of good values for our faith. One thing is very clear that Jesus heals the blind gives him hope. It also talks about discipleship.

In today's gospel, Jesus asks the blind man and to us, "What do you want me to do for you?" We read a similar question last week in our Gospel. James and John asked a favor, and Jesus asked the same question.

God always wishes to do something for you and me. God loves us so much that he wants to do something to us all the time. But do we ask the right thing? Just imagine today if God asks the same question to you and me what would be our answer? In today's world, I don't think we will have two same answers. Our needs and desires are many.

The blind man Bartimaeus wanted to see. That was the thing that he needed at that moment. He cried out loud for his need. He was not worried about the crowd in spite of their rebuke. Here we need to notice what Bartimaeus actually says to Jesus in answer to Jesus' question to him. Bartimaeus does not say to Jesus, "I want my sight." He says, "I want to see." To want sight is to want a capacity which can be used for all kinds of purposes—raising sheep, making money. But to want to see is to want the connection with reality that the exercise of sight makes possible. Wanting to see is wanting to know the true nature of reality, hidden in one way from a person when he is blind.

The story ends with Bartimaeus not only receiving his sight but also following Jesus on the way. His physical healing leads to a spiritual transformation—he becomes a disciple. This is what true faith does: it leads us to follow Jesus, not just receive blessings from Him.

We, too, are called to be like Bartimaeus. We are invited to acknowledge our own blindness, whether it be spiritual, emotional, or moral. We are called to cry out to Jesus in our need, trust in His mercy, and, when we are healed, to follow Him faithfully on the journey of discipleship.

Do we persist in our faith when faced with difficulties? Do we continue to trust in God when the world tries to discourage us, or do we give up? Bartimaeus shows us that faith must be steadfast, especially when it is tested.

If Jesus asks the question to you today what would be the one thing, or the right thing would you ask for? Please think about it. and will that request help us to grow in our relationship with Christ?