

Proper 25

*Sunday between 23 and 29 October inclusive ·
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Principal Service readings

Jeremiah 31.7-9	Sing aloud with gladness
Psalms 126	Restore again our fortunes, O Lord
Hebrews 7.23-28	The perfect priesthood of Jesus
Mark 10.46-52	Healing of blind Bartimaeus

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
speak to our hearts in the stillness,
keep us steadfast in the foundation that cannot be shaken,
lift up our eyes to behold the vision of your glory;
and perfect our faith, now and always. Amen.

Society of Saint Francis

Gospel Reading

The healing of blind Bartimaeus

⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' ⁵²Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 10.46-52 NRSV¹

Comments and Questions

The healing of blind Bartimaeus is, on the surface, a miracle story, but it is, more profoundly a story about faith.

¹ *New Revised Standard Version Bible* is copyright © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

The journey of Jesus started in Caesarea Philippi (8.27), but there have been few details about the route until the mention of Jericho (10.46). Jericho, situated fifteen miles northeast of Jerusalem, five miles west of the river Jordan, and six miles north of the Dead Sea, is an oasis in the midst of rough terrain.

Bartimaeus is the only named person, along with Jairus (5.22), apart from Jesus and his disciples, John the Baptist, and Herod (Antipas) mentioned, until the passion narrative begins.

Bartimaeus, though blind, shows prophetic insight. The phrase he uses about Jesus, 'Son of David', references Jesus' royal lineage. He is a beggar but he asks for more than money, for he asks 'that I may see again' (10.51), and he gets more than he asks for, as Jesus says, 'your faith has saved you' (10.52). Having found faith, Bartimaeus now follows Jesus on the way.

The journey narrative has been principally concerned with showing who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. At the beginning of the journey (8.22-26) the reader is reminded how difficult it can be to see these things clearly, and at the end (10.46-52) there us clear-sighted faith in Jesus as the Son of David and agent of God's healing power and the enthusiastic response of the crowd.

Quotations

1

The purpose of the Bible is simply to proclaim God's plan to save His children. It asserts that man is lost and needs to be saved. And it communicates the message that Jesus is the God in the flesh sent to save His children.

Max Lucado, 1955–

2

No one is excluded from calling upon God, the gate of salvation is set open to all people: neither is there any other thing which keeps us back from entering in, save only our own unbelief.

John Calvin, 1509–1564

Related topics

For further study:

Conversion; the mission and reign of Christ; the ministry of healing; discipleship; Christology; social justice; salvation; soteriology

Closing Prayer

Have pity on us, God our Saviour.
Grant us grace and courage to cast off our sins
and turn to you for healing.
Show us in Christ the sure path of salvation
and strengthen us to follow gladly
in the way of the gospel.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Opening prayers · Ordinary Time 30, Year B²

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2 *Opening prayers : scripture-related collects for the years A, B and C from the sacramentary* / International Commission on English in the Liturgy. – Norwich : Canterbury Press, 1999.