

Thirtieth Sunday Ordinary Time - B - 2018
Jer.31.7-9//Hebrews 5. 1-6//Mark 10.46-52

He was nothing in the eyes of most everyone....having been afflicted with blindness for so long...not ever being able to see...no faint images, no shadows, nothing but darkness!

→People would often tell him.... “it’s your fault because of what you did or your parents did....just live with it

→he thought....I honestly don’t remember what I did...what awful sin I committed that God would punish me so harshly...but it must have been terrible...and so here I am...a beggar....it’s my life...it’s all I know.

→he was on the roadside that day in Jerusalem...in his usual spot...exactly where he spent every day of his life.... spreading his cloak on the ground...the same one that kept him warm at night and collecting the coins that people threw at him during the day

→there had been rumors that this Jesus...the one many thought to be the Messiah would be passing by his very spot today

→he wasn’t sure but he had a sense that this just might be the day for a miracle

→Jesus was coming and he was convinced that he would be helped...

→as Jesus grew closer he began to shout as loud as he could...but the bystanders told him to “shut-up”.....and so he screamed all the louder

→and somehow through it all...Jesus heard him...

→the crowd grew silent as Jesus asks Bartimeaus... “what do you want me to do for you....and Bartimeaus asks for his sight....he could have asked for his dignity....maybe a to have a good job so that he could support himself....he could have asked to have his life back so that people would stop pushing and ignoring him as if he didn’t exist

--but instead Jesus heals him of his blindness...and Bartimeaus begins to follow Jesus.....

→Today's gospel reading is one of my favorite episodes....

→and I have always been fascinated by this story of healing as well as the power of healing in our lives....and yet.....at the same time.....perhaps one of the hardest dilemmas of our faith is the understanding and mystery behind "healing" and in particular...."PHYSICAL HEALING"

→we've all heard stories, perhaps even had encounters where there is evidence that a miraculous healing has taken place in someone's life....

→where a person facing a terminal illness or perhaps circumstances way beyond their control...are suddenly healed of their ailment, cured of their condition, and restored to good health....

→and when things like that happen...we are **strengthened** in our faith, **convinced** of God's mercy, and **renewed** in our outlook on life.

→but at the same time we are also often bewildered by questions, perplexed by feelings...and in search of reasons for why, and how come

→however, I do believe it is important to realize somethings about healing...that when it comes to healing <healing in general, or physical healing/// or spiritual healing/// or emotional healing-----> there are some things that we need to be mindful **OF AND REALIZE** as followers of Christ

→things that are evident in our gospel story today

→1st. WE NEED TO BELIEVE THAT J.C. IS SOURCE OF ALL HEALING

----->in gospel, Bartimaeus knew that J. could heal him

----->he approached J. in faith, not fear///and it was his strong faith that lead to his healing...

---->this is the same kind of deep and sincere faith, we also need to have for healing to take place.

--->[someone once told me] **IF THE POWER OF OUR FAITH IS NOT GREATER THAN THE POWER OF OUR ILLNESS, WE WILL NOT BE HEALED....[repeat]...think about that for a moment**

--->Bartimeaus' faith was much greater than his blindness, if not....he would not have been as persistent...and consequently he would have not been healed

→2ndly. WE NEED TO BELIEVE THAT J.C. [truly] WANTS TO HEAL US

--- Bartimaeus had faith and confidence that J. would heal him....and it is this same kind of faith and confidence that you and I need to have as people also

---[you see] → we have a tendency to have our confidence in God's love for us...not be as strong as it should be.....

→whenever something bad happens to us---we often determine that this has happened because we deserve it, or its our punishment

→I must have done something wrong in my life to get arthritis

→My cancer is a result of way I lived when I was young

→I don't deserve this relationship

→this death [this tragedy] happened because I must have did something wrong

→and...when comes to healing we sometimes think .../////since my illness is something I deserve [from God]....IF God wants me to get better then I will....

→the point of all this is that there are no IF's when it comes to God's love for us

→unlike human emotions and human relationships, where we put all kinds of IF's, AND's and BUT's on one another

→....it doesn't work that way with God

→we need to truly believe and have the confidence that J>C> is the source of all healing

→3rdly HEALING...IN WHATEVER FORM IT MAY BE, IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WILL BE DENIED TO ANYONE

→....Bartimeaus **desired** to be healed

→he knew what and why he wanted it

→he wanted to be healed so that he could follow Christ--and become a disciple

→ [you know] Bart may have lacked eyesight but he had tremendous insight

→[point is].....God heals all of us, however it might not always be in the way we want to BE healed

---the power of healing is something that is open to all of us, however we cannot be concerned with how God will accomplish this healing, or how long it will take----we need to be concerned with the fact that all of us are healed always by God

PAUSE

→in today's Gospel Bart. was healed...

→he was healed because of his faith, his conviction///his belief in Christ

---[i.o.w] the power of his faith, was much greater than the power of his illness

PAUSE

→All of us in this building are in need of healing...because all of us, in some way or another are hurting....and yet none of us will ever completely understand the healing power of Christ here on earth

we will never completely understand why things happen the way we do

why some of us suffer and others do not

why some are healed in one way while others are not

but as followers of Christ we need to realize and understand that Jesus is the source of all healing, that Jesus indeed does heal all of us [not maybe always in the way we want] but always in HIS own way

....and our faith...our commitment...our relationship to Him....needs to be the foundation of our healing in our lives

→we see that clearly happening in today's gospel.....Bart. believed and lived that....and the message to you and me is that we must do the same if we too indeed want to be healed by Christ.....