

We get frustrated -others are too blind to see our point of view; too blind to see what's really going on in politics; to see what's going on in the community. We get upset our children are blind to see our wisdom; children think their parents can't see to not understand them; spouses blind to the needs of the other; upset people don't see what is true, to see their error, blind to the needs of others.

Oh, how often we're blind to see things correctly. We think we're ok, we're in good shape; think others are far worse, see our sin isn't so bad, our slip-ups, harmless mistakes, well-intended misgivings, our pride. Forgive us Lord -so often blind to see our own wretchedness.

Sometimes those who can see -are blind; those who are blind -can see. That's today's Gospel. A poor blind beggar sees far greater than others, sees the truth of Jesus, understands who He is, looks to Him with faith.

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to die. Busy road, lots of people, and one person, we even learn his name, stops Jesus in his tracks.

**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!** By this prayer, the man showed he had faith in Jesus. **Son of David**, title for the Messiah. King David's son was Solomon; Solomon built the temple; Solomon's name means "peace," The promised line of the Christ from the Garden, to David, from that line, a future everlasting king would come. Jesus, Son of David, the Prince of Peace, God's temple, His dwelling place among us now in the flesh. Bartimaeus knew Scripture, believed that Word he had heard. That was enough. For faith comes by hearing, not by sight.

**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!** And only God can give, what this man is crying for, the mercy you need. For sin and evil and a broken creation has done its work well. Who else is there to cry unto? Who else can give mercy; mercy that is to be spared wrath, to be saved from destruction, mercy is to cry out for forgiveness, for those who suffer, those who need a compassionate God to help; to cry for God to act in their life.

**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!** Take your place of honor with a blind beggar. Bartimaeus, name means, honorable son; you, an honorable child in this Kingdom, beg, pray. **Lord have mercy on me.** A prayer of humble faith that looks to Christ to receive His gracious gifts. A prayer for those times when words fail. No other prayer in Scripture so

grabs our Lord's attention. Why it so fills the historical liturgy of the Church. Let this ever be on your lips, as a beggar, confident that the Lord will fill you with forgiveness, His works, with good things.

Martin Luther, in his 40 years as theologian, gave 1000s of sermons, wrote over 2600 letters, over 120 works published, of all that he wrote, famously his last written words, on his deathbed, 475 years ago, wrote, "Wir sind alles bettler." We're all beggars. Bartimaeus. Luther, all His people, you -are a beggar. There is no other position to take. What else can you do? Beggars with nothing to offer our Lord?

Jesus asks you, as He asked Bartimaeus, **What do you want Me to do for you?** He answered His own question, crucified for you, for your salvation. He gets what you deserve; the guilty not being punished, but declared not guilty. That's mercy. He brings light to our blindness of sin and unbelief, that the eyes of all see Him, behold Him, true God, true man who laid His life down as a sacrifice you.

**What do you want me to do for you?** Don't you yearned for a response to your cry, for your various petitions to God. To have what you cry for, the healing, the cure, the help, the fix, the answer you need.

**What do you want me to do for you?** You are here because our Lord answers your plea, **Christ, have mercy**. He has shown mercy through the gifts He gives to you in this place: forgiveness, healing in His Word and Sacraments. And your prayer for compassion, help, a cure, is given; beyond ways you can begin to fathom, it is yours. You can trust this. Take God at His Word, He has bound Himself to you. That's not say everything will happen, everything will go for you, you'll have everything you want now. But all according to His good and gracious will, all you ever need, it's delivered to you now and for eternity. And your 'wants' if not given to you now, will be given to you in heaven. Your faith, that is -the gift of God from His Word and Sacrament- **your faith has made you well**, the word there **made you well** is **saved you**. Christ has saved you.

Do not be blind to see, our Lord answers your cry, **What do you want Me to do for you?** His answered is far better than anything you could ever dream. You may not understand or see it now; ask and it will be done for you. Beggars all, to receive what He wants to give. Thank the Lord He has time He stops for you, mercy in abundance for honorable children in faith, beggars like you. Your cries, for your Lord to act in your life, are always answered with His gifts.