

Thirtieth Sunday Ordinary Time - B - 2021
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 “keep quiet”.....and so he screamed all the louder

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

→the crowd grew silent as Jesus asks Bartimaeus... “what do you want me to do for you....and Bartimaeus 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 Bartimaeus 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 understanding the 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 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.... there are also bewildering questions and perplexed feelings...as we search for reasons of why and how come

→however, **I do believe** it is important to realize some things 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 the gospel, Bartimaeus knew that J. could heal him

→he approached J. in faith, not fear///and it is his strong faith that leads to his healing...

→it is this same kind of deep and abiding faith, we also must have in our desire for healing.

→[someone once said] **IF THE POWER OF FAITH IS NOT GREATER or STRONGER THAN WHAT AILS US...HEALING IS HARD TO COME BY....[repeat]...think about that for a moment**

→Bartimeaus' faith was much stronger 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. could heal him...it is this same kind of faith and confidence you and I need to have as well

---[you see] →however that is often **not** the case....

→whenever something bad happens---we can often determine that this has happened because we deserve it, or it's 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 because of my actions...**IF** God wants me to get better then I will....

→however...there are no IF's when it comes to God's love for us

→unlike our emotions and our 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

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

→...Bartimaeus **desired** to be healed

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

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

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

→but the power of God's healing is open to all of us,

PAUSE

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

→because of his faith, his conviction////his belief in Christ

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

PAUSE

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

→we will never completely grasp why things happen the way we do

→why some 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 gives healing to all of us [maybe not always in the way we want] but always in HIS own way

....and our strength and commitment to our faith in Christ...needs to be the foundation of our healing in our lives

→we see that clearly happening in today's gospel.....Bartimaeus believed and lived that commitment...that faith....

and that is the message to you and me is day if we too want to be healed by Jesus Christ.....