

**October 24, 2021**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Jer 31:7-9**  
**Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6**  
**Heb 5:1-6**  
**Mk 10:46-52**

### **LORD, HELP ME SEE!**

As human beings, we do have five (5) senses – **sense of smell; sense of touch; sense of taste; sense of hearing; and sense of sight.** If you will be confronted to make a choice to retain only one of the senses, **which one will you retain?**

I asked some parishioners, and they gave me different answers. Most of them, though, chose to retain their sense of sight. Personally, I chose to retain my sense of sight too. **Why?** It is simply because with my sense of sight intact I will still be able to drive my car and visit my family and friends. I will still be able to appreciate the beauty of God's creation. I will still be able to see the sparkles in your eyes and your beautiful smile.

Bartimaeus, in our gospel proclaimed, was deprived of sense of sight. For a long time, he was longing to have his sight restored. Thus, when he heard about the presence of the Lord Jesus in the area, he did not waste any time to get Jesus' attention. He made a conscious effort to take a hold of Jesus. He was persistent in spite of the hurdles along the way. He succeeded. The Lord Jesus took notice of him. And in their encounter the Lord Jesus was impressed with Bartimaeus' faith, saying: **"Go your way; your faith has saved you."**

Bartimaeus may have been blind physically but not spiritually. His spiritual sight was 20/20. He saw who Jesus truly was. He recognized the healing power and authority of Jesus. He demonstrated this when he cried out loud, **"Jesus, son of David, have pity/mercy on me."** His words were prayers of faith, and his prayers were answered by the Lord Jesus. The compassion and love of Jesus made him whole again.

The story of Bartimaeus was placed by St. Mark the Evangelist after the story of the ambitious brothers, James and John. **Why?** Let me refresh you first on the gospel proclaimed last Sunday. We heard last time how James and John wanted to sit one on the left and one on the right of the Lord Jesus. They were aiming for the position of power. They thought that's where greatness is found. The Lord Jesus opened their eyes and taught them that greatness is found in humble service. Listen again to what he said: **"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."** And then comes the story of Bartimaeus as the end story of Chapter 10 of St. Mark's Gospel. The placing of the stories is intentional on the part of the evangelist to stress a point that seeing the Lord Jesus is more than having the sense of sight. Bartimaeus may have been deprived of sense of sight but saw who the Lord Jesus was. On

the other hand, James and John have the sense of sight intact and yet, in this instance, did not 'see' that the Lord Jesus was putting the world order upside down. Bartimaeus had a good spiritual vision while the brothers' spiritual visions were blurry.

**How's our spiritual vision? Is it 20/20? Do we clearly see the Lord Jesus as he truly is? Do we see his Real Presence in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist? If we truly believe that he is present here and he will ask us: "What do you want me to do for you?" what will be our response? Will we re-echo the words of Bartimaeus? "Master, I want to see."**

In my encounter with the Lord Jesus here in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist I would like to tell him these words...

- **Lord, help me see the urgency to teach the faith to others.**
- **Lord, help me see the need to share my time, talent, and treasure for the good of the faith-community.**
- **Lord, help me see your Real Presence in the celebration of the Mass.**
- **Lord, help me see the joy of humble and loving service.**
- **Lord, help me see the importance of being engaged/involved in the life of the parish.**
- **Lord, help me see the beauty of proclaiming the Good News to all.**
- **Lord, help me see your message amid this pandemic.**
- **Lord, help me see the splendor of praying with the community.**
- **Lord, help me see the greatness of your love showered on me every day.**
- **Lord, help me see the good things in others.**
- **Lord, help me see the value to forgive and the courage to ask for forgiveness.**
- **Lord, help me see the blunders I have committed and change for the better.**
- **Lord, help me see the need for compassion for the marginalized.**
- **Lord, help me see the power of attentive silence in your presence.**
- **Lord, help me see the faith professed, celebrated, lived, and prayed.**
- **Lord, help me see redemption through sufferings.**
- **Lord, help me see hope amid trials and difficulties.**
- **Lord, help me see the marvelousness of stewardship as a way of life.**
- **Lord, please restore my spiritual vision so I can give witness to your Gospel and bring others closer to you.**

As we continue our Eucharistic celebration, let us unceasingly pray for each other and beg the Lord Jesus to restore our spiritual vision so we can clearly see His message and live it!

God bless and stay safe!