



The Gift of Sight

3rd Saturday of Lent

Mark 10:46-52

They 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. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.'

So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then 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.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Every day, day after day, he kept his place by the side of the road listening for the sound of footsteps approaching, calling out, waiting, hoping, and listening for the sound of a coin, a morsel of bread or other food—a gift of charity—being tossed in his direction. This day, though, was different from all the others; Jesus, a rabbi with healing powers, would be passing by this very spot on his way out of town. Today held the possibility for something far more lasting and life-transforming than a coin or a piece of bread. When he heard the group approaching, he called out: *Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!* To remain there unnoticed and unseen was too awful to imagine, and so when others sought to silence him, he called out even more insistently: *Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! What do you want me to do for you?* Jesus asked him, and without a moment's hesitation the beggar replied: *Let me see again.* Jesus neither touched him with healing power nor sent him away to accomplish some task for healing but simply declared: *Your faith has made you well*—that is your trust, your belief—and he followed Jesus.

Bartimaeus is a study in the meaning of faith, for faith is always trusting and following Jesus.

Prayer

I love thee, I love thee, I love thee, my Lord. I love thee, my Savior, I love thee, My God. I love thee, I love thee, and that thou dost know, but how much I love thee my actions do show.

Early American Folk Hymn