

## **Removing Our Hurt & Asking for God's Mercy 30th Sunday in OT.**

There is a story on facebook about a Professor who said:

"If God created everything; then God created evil..."

A student asks 'Professor, does cold exist? 'Of course it exists responded the Professor - Have you never been cold?"

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

Student continued - Professor, does darkness exist? Of course it does said the Professor.

The student replied, "Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. You cannot measure darkness.

Darkness is a term we use to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?" the professor responded, "Of course, We see it everyday."

The student replied, "Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word we created to describe the absence of God.

God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

This story invites us to reflect on the gospel passage we heard today.

Bartimaeus cries out and asks Jesus to have pity on him.

He wants to be healed; he wants the hurt of his blindness to be removed.

He asks Jesus for Mercy and that he will be able to see.

Although Bartimaeus was physically blind, he possessed spiritual insight, his soul able to "see" what most others couldn't — that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

Bartimaeus was a person with two shortcomings: he could not see and he was unable to work for a living, which forced him to beg. His blindness caused him a great deal of pain, as he was an outcast.

You and I need to ask ourselves - What if we are holding on to hurt and will not let go - We may not be able to ask for mercy.

God's love and mercy has been poured into us. We are called to forgive as we have been forgiven - Be forgiving as your heavenly Father forgives you!

Sometimes our hurt does not allow us to forgive. So how can we let a hurt go and forgive.

Like a child opens a hand to let a butterfly go!

Five things you and I can do to help remove our hurt:

**1. Admit the Hurt** – Yes, I was hurt by ... Must admit the hurt. Otherwise, we will react to every person who looks like or acts like the person who hurt us.

Notice, Bartimaeus kept calling out to Jesus even when many told him to be silent.

**2. Turn to the Spirit of Jesus Christ.** No one was more hurt than Jesus Christ in the last week of His life. He was betrayed with a Kiss.

Turn to that Spirit and let it get inside of us. Take the Crucifix and focus on the last week of Jesus' life.

But we say, I can forgive, but I cannot forget. I still will hold on to this. God forgives and forgets.

Bartimaeus turns to Jesus and Jesus tells him, 'Go your way; your faith has saved you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

**3. Be able to express our forgiveness to the person who has hurts us.** You have hurt me, but I forgive you. Forgive me for anything that I have done to hurt you.

If you cannot say it to the person - Write it out and leave it on the table by your side for a couple of weeks.

**4. Separate the wrongdoing from the wrong.** Would anyone like to be judged by what we did wrong? We need to look at the Total Picture.

Separate the wrong-doer from the wrong.

Steven Covey once said you can do 10 things for a person, and 9 of them are good things, but if you do one thing they do not agree with, then that is all they focus and judge you on.

Do we ever do that?

What about the other 9 things the person has done. What about the 9 good things we have done, and yet are judged on the 1 that people do not like.

**5. Turn the Page: Find something good about the other person.**

Let go of the past. But sometimes, we love to hold onto the hurt.

There are two Voices that speak to us.

One Voice tells us to hold on to hurt – the absence of the good spirit.

Second Voice tells us to look for the good – Voice of Grace/God.

Viktor Frankl – Dachau concentration camp said: “If I did not forgive Hitler, I would have become as insane as he was.”

Ask ourselves are we holding on to anything that keeps us from seeing?

Anything that prevents us from asking for God's mercy?

If I am - what am I going to do about it?

We are all sinners. It is what we all have in common. If we would remember that, we would treat each other with more kindness, love, and respect.

We all are in need of God's Mercy!

Praise Be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!