

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B; HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS

READINGS; 1st Jer. 31: 7-9, 2nd Hebr. 5:1-6, Gospel Mark 10: 46-52

“Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you”

Introduction; we are all now and in the past experienced blindness of one kind or the other. We must have courage like that of Bartimaeus, and call to Jesus with boldness of faith without fearing the crowd. Our blindness should not prevent us from acknowledging the presence of Christ who came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. Through his suffering we shall all be justified. We are to begin by asking him for forgiveness, and then he will simply ask us, “what do you want me to do for you?”... The answer is very clear; Lord! I want to see again.

Reflection; our life of discipleship and following Christ is all about a journey, a journey of faith which encompasses all our life. This journey has been termed in the scriptures as “the way”. In the Old Testament readings, the way is the journey home from exile in Babylon. God gathers his displaced people and brings them back to the land of Israel. The road on which they walked in tears now they will walk with a laughter and joy. The same theme that has being proclaimed by the psalmist “the lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.” The entire journey of life has to be marked with this exclamation of joy, because the Lord has done great things for us.

In the answer that Bartimaeus provides today, “I want to see”. There are two meanings attached to it from scriptural point of view, to see with one’s physical eyes, and to see with one’s heart and mind; that is to perceive and understand. Jesus granted Bartimaeus both kinds of sight. Physically he could see and understand that Jesus is the son of God who came to save us. When Jesus told him; “go your way”, he followed Jesus on “the way”. The way of Jesus is the way to life. And Bartimaeus had found the way, unlike the crowds, who followed Jesus as a mob without understanding and perceiving that he was the way to eternal life.

We have to encounter Jesus and call on him with faith, this faith should tell us who Jesus is. Jesus forgives us our sins in the first place because he loves us and he is our high priest. The role of the high priest was and still is to offer sacrifice for the remission of the sins of the people. The sacrifice of Jesus was a perfect remission of sins. Then our faith should enable us to overcome the crowds, overcome our weaknesses like Bartimaeus who threw away his cloak and jumped to follow Jesus who called him. Our faith should allow us to tell Jesus what we want him to do for us, he simply asks similar question every day; “what do you want me to do for you?” let us say it openly and with faith and surely we shall receive it from his bounty.

When we have been set free from our blindness, we should rejoice in the Lord, and allow others also to see the light and the truth of their lives.