

The disciples following Jesus up to Jerusalem are afraid.

They have started to understand, Jesus is about to be executed.

When Jesus is arrested, they will mostly run away.

They are all spiritual seekers, but seeing the way of God will be too much for them.

They are unable to integrate the spiritual dimension of life that Jesus has been teaching: all life follows the pattern of death and resurrection.

They are still blind.

In this condition they are unable to know that they are children of God.

Daily, when we turn to God in prayer, Jesus' answer is always:

passion, death and resurrection.

This is the spiritual dimension of life.

With grace, we can embrace it.

If we stop seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, we end up blind, sitting on the roadside with Bartimaeus.

Jesus is leaving Jericho, he is going up to Jerusalem to reveal death and resurrection.

In order to see, Bartimaeus must move from his stationary spot on the road.

But Bartimaeus cannot move on his own, he needs Jesus to call him.

Bartimaeus must really want to see,

he must overcome many obstacles,

he must call out to Jesus persistently.

Jesus finally stops and calls Bartimaeus.

Those who were once obstructing him now assist him.

Bartimaeus throws off his old life of blindness and springs towards Jesus.

But Bartimaeus' life of seeing has not yet begun.

Curiously, Jesus asks Bartimaeus the same question that he asked James and John last week.

“What do you want me to do for you?”

Jesus is testing Bartimaeus.

James and John completely failed this test last week, they were glory seeking.

Jesus is not a fairy godmother granting wishes.

Jesus is revealing the way humans interact with the divine.

Jesus' revelation is death and resurrection.

Jesus' apostles do not want to see this.

They will remain blind until they witness the resurrection.

Only then are their eyes opened.

But Bartimaeus is ready.

Jesus opens Bartimaeus' eyes so that he can witness Jesus' death and resurrection.

Jesus senses that Bartimaeus already has this faith.

In crying out for mercy, Bartimaeus recognized that Jesus could undo humanity's separation from God.

Jesus' death and resurrection will be the complete revelation of this truth.

Then in answering Jesus, Bartimaeus addresses Jesus as Rabbouni, Master.

Only one other person addresses Jesus this way,

Mary Magdala after Jesus has risen from the dead.

Bartimaeus already completely entrusts himself to Jesus.

Everyday we must beg God to remove our blindness as we enter into the revelation of the cross and resurrection, which is the spiritual dimension of our daily life.

Only then do we fully know that we truly are the children of God.