



Reflection: A Deep Question to Ask

Many sternly ordered Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, 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 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?' (Mark 10.48-51)

In his May 30, 2024 Daily TV Mass homily, Fr. Francis Salasiar, CSC, of the Archdiocese of Toronto helped us reflect beyond the blind man's miraculously regaining his sight:

The Gospel reading is bigger than healing of the physical and outward blindness or seeing. It invites us to take a few questions. Do you ever feel like you are in the dark? Do you ever feel like you are sitting on the roadside of life? Most of us could have experienced moments in our lives when we feel we could not see our way forward. We could have been confused, there was no clarity. Perhaps the faith that you had weened away. The light you seemed to have does not illuminate any longer. There could have been other moments when you felt on the roadside looking for an opportunity.

What is if Bartimaeus was not a blind beggar, would he have reached out to Jesus with the same intensity? Or could he have cried out the same when people around him wanted him to be quiet? Perhaps there are ways in which we mature and come to ourselves. There could be a gateway to the fullness of life God intends or causes those difficult times. God certainly uses what comes our way with our blindness, roadside sitting, begging bringing us to the light. Whatever life has thrown at us, let us not lose hope even if we feel like Bartimaeus whose life passes by Jesus comes to us with the same question, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The deeper question we need to ask, as Bartimaeus perfectly knew what he wanted, is 'Do we know what we want?'

Reflection Questions

1. Recall a moment when you felt in the dark. How did you handle it?
2. At this moment, do you know what you want?
3. Describe a time when you stepped out of yourself to lift others from darkness.

Let us pray... O Lord, may Your liberating and restorative love, light and lead us through our blindness – spiritual, emotional or relational – helping us to faithfully find meanings in our lives. May You also guide us to be docile and to earnestly reach out to others who go through one dark moment after another, crises and misguided notions.

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About the writer: Jose is a chartered professional accountant. He is a member of Saint John of the Cross, Mississauga, Ontario Conference, a member of the Greater Toronto Central Council Spirituality Committee, and President as well as Spiritual Facilitator of the Peel North Particular Council. Aside from the National Spirituality committee, he is member of that Council's Strategic Planning committee. He is also a member of the Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) Board of Directors, and its Board treasurer.

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