

Young Adult Scripture Reflection
October 25, 2009

In today's Gospel passage the Lord is met by the cries of a man named Bartimaeus. This blind man wants to be able to see with his eyes, but the crowds, who have full use of their eyes, do not see this man's need as important and wish only to shut him up. There are different kinds of blindness in this world. Some are called blind and yet are still able to see many things while others with perfect eyesight can miss the most important things right in front of their face. Let us reflect on how a blind person's perception can, at times, bring much needed "sight" into this world.

God bless and keep you all,
Fr. John Linden
Parochial Vicar

Gospel

[Mk 10:46-52](#)

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd,
Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus,
sat by the roadside begging.
On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to cry out and say,
"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."
And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.
But he kept calling out all the more,
"Son of David, have pity on me."
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."
So they called the blind man, saying to him,
"Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."
He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.
Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."
Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."
Immediately he received his sight
and followed him on the way.

Reflection:

Somewhere, on a winding road that leads up to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, there is a statue of the blind Bartimaeus. It was commissioned by a blind Italian woman who went to Lourdes hoping to miraculously receive her sight back. Her eyes

never regained their vision but her heart was forever changed and she never saw the world the same again. Her vision of faith had become miraculously acute.

Bartimaeus was a man living 70 miles from where Jesus had been preaching and healing around the Sea of Galilee. And yet, this blind man knew simply from what he had heard coming out of Galilee and what he had heard all his life from the Scriptures read aloud at the synagogue that Jesus was the only one who could heal him. He calls to him by a title that all of Israel knew was reserved only for the Messiah (the Savior). He cried out "Son of David, have pity on me."

Sometimes in this world of text messages and internet, gatherings and parties, occupations and appointments, television, movies, i-pods, by-pods and tri-pods, it isn't that unwise to voluntarily blind ourselves to these things now and again and open ourselves to something far deeper and more enlightening. Wherever we are there is never too far from us a church or chapel, a park or a quiet room, where we can close our eyes and minds to the distractions of the world and put ourselves in the presence of our Savior by reading the Scriptures and in quiet contemplative prayer. There we can find a vision that the world could never see because it remains blind to it. The more we learn to close our eyes to the glare of the world and quiet things down on the outside the more we may discover a vision of faith growing within us.