

GOD HEARS OUR CRIES

Our readings today remind us that God hears our cries. In the first reading (Jerimiah 31:7-9) and the responsorial psalm (Ps 126), the people find themselves in exile, far from their land, and yearn to return home. They cry out to the Lord, who hears them and promises to bring them back from exile: "I will gather them from the ends of the earth" (Jeremiah 31:8). This is a message of hope and comfort. God sees the suffering of His people and plans to restore them. This is a reminder to us that God's restoration includes everyone, especially the weak and vulnerable- the blind, the lame, the distressed, etc. God cares for everyone, no matter their condition.

This assurance of God's love and mercy is also echoed in the Gospel (Mark 10:46-52). Bartimaeus hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by and begins to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" His persistent cries reflect a profound faith and a deep yearning for healing. Jesus stops and calls Bartimaeus to Him and restores his sight and tells him that he has been saved by his faith.

Jesus asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" This question invites us to articulate our needs and desires, emphasizing that faith is not passive but an active engagement with God. Discipleship requires us to recognize our own blindness—our inability to see the truth of our lives and the world around us. Just as Bartimaeus calls out for mercy, we too are called to acknowledge our need for God's grace and healing in our lives.

The theme of "seeing" is central to today's message. Bartimaeus, despite his physical blindness, sees Jesus for who He truly is—the Messiah. His faith leads to his healing: "Go your way; your faith has saved you." This statement highlights that true sight comes from faith. It challenges us to consider what we truly see in our lives and in our faith.

As we reflect on these readings, let us ask ourselves: Are we merely spectators, or are we actively participating in the life of faith? Are we willing to step out of our comfort zones, and like Bartimaeus, to seek Jesus and His healing touch? What are the areas of our lives where we feel blind? What do we need to bring before Jesus?

May we have the courage to cry out for mercy and the faith to believe that we will be heard. Let us be inspired by Bartimaeus to not only seek healing for ourselves but also to be instruments of healing and hope for others. Let us pray for the grace to see clearly and to respond to God's call in our lives. Amen!

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