



## Mark 10:46-52

**46** As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. **47** When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' **48** And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' **49** Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said, 'get up; he is calling you.' **50** So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. **51** Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him, 'Master, let me see again.' **52** Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

Other readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 125 (126) Hebrews 5:1-6

With this gospel passage we reach the end of chapter 10 of the Gospel of Mark, and, more significantly, we are reaching the end of the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. At the beginning of the next chapter Mark will recount the triumphal entry of Jesus into the holy city. During the journey Jesus has spoken on three clear occasions of his coming suffering and death, and he has attempted to teach the disciples about the mystery of martyrdom, the martyrdom which he and they must face.

What place does our present passage have in the story? Bartimaeus reminds us of the basics as he sits 'by the road'. Human beings are in need of healing and forgiveness, and these are the things that Jesus provides. He calls out to Jesus with the title 'Son of David'. He has an inkling that he is the Messiah, but he will have had little idea that the Messiah is called to suffer and die in Jerusalem. Nevertheless, his call of faith is heard and Jesus in turn calls Bartimaeus to him. He is told to 'get up', an expression which would have reminded the early Christians of the resurrection. His rising up in faith and his subsequent healing point to the full gift of new life through faith in Jesus.

The gift of sight to Bartimaeus symbolises the gift of faith. Faith allows us to see with open eyes and a true heart. Unlike an earlier healing of a blind man in Mark, Jesus heals by word alone. The faith of Bartimaeus triggers the command of healing from Jesus. This time there is no delay in the healing. Bartimaeus receives his sight without delay. He becomes a disciple and follows Jesus along the road, exultant, on the last stages of the journey towards Jerusalem.

*Do I seek true vision?*

*How determined am I to be healed by Jesus and to become his disciple?*

*Let us thank God for the light of faith.*

*Let us pray for all teachers of the faith that they may bring the light of truth to those to whom they minister.*