



Things to Ponder

- [About the Author](#)
- [Order](#)
- [About the Book](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Readers' Comments](#)
- [News & Events](#)
- [A Prayer for the Day](#)
- [Things To Shout Out!](#)
- [Things to Ponder](#)
- [My Favorite Quotes](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Home](#)

Homily Reflections – Gospel of Mark 10:46-52

Introduction: What Do You Want to See?

This Sunday, Mark's Gospel opens with Jesus and his disciples in Jericho, which lies just north of Jerusalem. They are journeying south on their way from Galilee to Jerusalem – a place so full of danger for him and them. As Jesus is on his way out of Jericho—accompanied by his disciples and a large crowd of people—there is a blind beggar called Bartimaeus sitting beside the dusty road.

The name Bartimaeus literally means “son of the unclean” in Hebrew, so the name alone sets up Mark's intention of reporting this story in much detail. For throughout the first ten chapters, Mark has shown Jesus to be in constant association with the “unclean” of his society – demoniacs, lepers, tax collectors, sinners. When Mark shows Jesus healing someone who is named “son of the unclean,” he is reminding his readers (us) of them all.

Who is considered “unclean” in our society today?

When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus as he passes by, the crowd around him tries to silence him. But Bartimaeus persists – calling out more loudly and with greater urgency: “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.” Here Mark shows Bartimaeus addressing Jesus as “son of David,” a title that he recognizes Jesus as God's chosen one. There is a certain irony in his request to see because he seems to already be seeing more than sighted folk around him!

What are you not seeing? Can you name it?

Hearing his loud cry over the crowd's noise, Jesus stops and says: “Call him.” And now the fickle crowd changes its tune and calls out to the blind man: “Take courage. Get up. Jesus is calling you.”

“Get up!” He is being called to rise, the same verb that describes the rising of Jesus from the dead. Mark clearly highlights that Bartimaeus is not just being told to get on his feet but to enter a whole new way of living.

*Do you hear the call to “get up” in your life?
What is holding you down? Name it.*

In a poignant exchange, Jesus asks him: “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man replies: “Master, I want to see.” And immediately he received his sight.

Ponder: When we truly see with our inner eye, it changes our whole way of looking at our world.

Some further informative observations in this beautiful story. Within this narrative, the story of the blind beggar reverses that of the rich man. The rich man could not become a disciple of Jesus because of his many possessions. In contrast, the beggar has no possessions except his cloak – and he immediately casts that away to follow Jesus.

Furthermore, when Mark ends this narrative by saying, “Straightaway (immediately) he received his sight and followed him on the way,” he affirms the potential for all of us to follow Jesus’ way of return to the beginning. We can also “get up,” be healed of our “uncleanness,” and be restored, to have our lives “made straight” again. We can rise and see!

Where can you identify with Bartimaeus?

I would invite you to take time to read and ponder words from the ***Gospel of Mark 10:46-52***.

What word or words caught your attention?
What in this passage comforted/challenged you?
How can I see things more clearly in Jesus?

Further Questions and Reflections:

This story has meanings going far beyond a miracle story. It’s a beautiful summing up of how Jesus’ disciples learn to see and walk with him along the Way. It is a Gospel in miniature, a vignette of the “unseeing” person discovering where Truth and Life are and committing himself/herself to the Way.

Where do I fit into this story? Am I happy to fall in with the crowd with its different moods and reactions? Or can I see myself showing the courage and persistence of Bartimaeus?

I imagine Jesus saying about me, “Call her here!” Call him here!” And then saying, “What do you want me to do for you?” *How would I answer?*

“Lord, there are many people sitting at the side of the road, shouting to us to have pity on them. But they often shout in strange ways by behaving badly in the classroom; by taking drugs and alcohol; by sulking, remaining silent. Sometimes by insisting that they are happy to be at the side of the road while others pass by. Lord, like Jesus, we need to stop all that we are doing so we can hear them express their deep longing to have their sight restored in them.” – *Sacred Space: Jesuits*

“The man was sitting beside the road, not on it. And this indeed is the lot of everyone who sits beside the road – to be blind and a beggar in need. The road in this Gospel story is a symbol of the Way – who is Christ. This is where there is Truth and Life. And so at the end of this Gospel story, the man who made his compact with Jesus is now able to see, is no longer a beggar, and is accompanying Jesus on the road, on the Way.” —*Sacred Space: Jesuits*

Are you sitting beside the road or are you on it?

Deacon David

Deacon David Suley
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Rockville, Maryland

Published with Permission

Website Technology ©2007 [American Author](#).
A division of [Cevado Technologies](#). All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#)

