

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – B

- Story of a boy reading Bartimeus story to his little brother.
 - What would you ask for?
 - A great big German Shepard with a gold chain to lead me.
 - Bartimeus new better – rather than staying blind with a guard dog.
 - Bartimeus wanted to fix the blindness – no guide dog for him – he wanted to see!
 - How many settle for a seeing eye dog, when God wants to give new eyes
- Last weekend I was away at my son's wedding
 - Old friends – family – great time
 - One of my son's best friends from High School came with his wife
 - In High School – a royal screw up – always in trouble (dragged Mike along)
 - Since we've known him – Coast Guard – wife – bible study – 2 daughters
 - He was given new eyes
 - Bible study came alive – he HEARD that God loved him
 - When he saw the truth – it changed his life
- Bartimeus heard about Jesus
 - Bartimeus knew he could be healed – BUT BETTER THAN THAT
 - Bartimeus believed he could be healed
 - It is one thing to know about God
 - It is something else all together to know God
 - You can know ABOUT God and not believe (Head Knowledge)
 - But when you know God (Heart Knowledge)
- We all need to learn what Bartimeus already knew
- We need to learn what my son's friend Aaron learned
- God loves US more than we can imagine – God loves YOU more than you can imagine
 1. Bart hears about Jesus, and calls out to Him.
 - First step – is prayer
 - When was the last time you prayed?
 - I don't mean prayers here where we all say a canned response
 - Prayer from a time set apart at home, where we open ourselves to God
 - Prayer looking to God, admitting our powerless & His powerful
 2. Bart is rebuked, but pays no attention.
 - Same with us – the world says “Religion is obsolete”
 - “Church is irrelevant” “Prayer's a waste of time”
 - We must resist the temptation to go along with the crowd
 - We must resist the temptation to let our culture impress false values
 3. Bart is told to come to Jesus, sets aside the cloak and goes.
 - Import of his dropping the cloak
 - A beggar would lay out the cloak and collect coins and food on it
 - At night he would wrap himself in it – It was all he had
 - When he drops the cloak he's letting go of everything to go to Jesus
 - Mark is saying “Let go of what you consider critical & run to Jesus”
 - Let go of your wants so that Jesus can deal with your needs.
 4. With no resources of his own, Bart presents his need.
 - Jesus asks “What do you want me to do for you?”

-Same question as last week to James and John
They wanted to sit on right and left
Humble beggar brings needs, not wants.
No bartering – No “If this, then I’ll ...” just simple need.

NOT A BAD PLAN

Prayer
Perseverance – despite rebukes
Letting God take control
And humility

GOD is a loving Father – he sees our needs, he knows our wants
We can settle for a German Shepherd but God yearns to give us new eyes

The Lesson of Bartimeaus:

Prayer	Perseverance	Surrender to God	Humility
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