

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 & believed
 - He saw the truth with new eyes – it changed his life
 - Bartimeus heard about Jesus
 - Bartimeus wanted to be healed – BUT BETTER THAN THAT
 - Bartimeus believed he could be
 - 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 need to see with new eyes of faith - Bartimeus' eyes
 - We need to see with the new eyes of my son's friend Aaron - & see the truth
 - 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 - Same with us – the world says "Religion is obsolete"*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 – beggar brings needs, not wants.*
- GOD is a loving Father – he sees our needs, he knows our wants
We can settle for a guide dog but God yearns to give us new eyes

The Lesson of Bartimeaus: Prayer Perseverance Surrender to God's will