



**HOMILY BY FR MICHAEL GATHUKU**  
**24 TH OCTOBER 2021**  
**30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.**

Have you ever become discouraged? felt like giving up on God or even attempted taking your life because you believe your condition is beyond any remedy? Have you been discouraged by family and friends from taking a positive step to overcoming a habit that has kept you spiritually blind? Have you lost the patience and hope to wait on God? Today's first reading tells us how a forgiving, kind and compassionate God has been healing the spiritual blindness of His Chosen People by subjecting them to captivity in Babylon and liberating them and bringing them back to their homeland.

The Jerusalem journey of Jesus in the company of the lame and the blind connects the first reading to today's gospel. The healing of the blind Bartimaeus in today's Gospel is also seen as the fulfilment of the joyful prophecy of Jeremiah about the return of the exiled Jews from Babylon to their homeland.

When we look at the story of Bartimaeus in today's Gospel, we are encouraged and more hopeful again that we have a God who listens and hears our cry. Remember this is coming after what we might refer as Freedom week, the first weekend of mass of more than 3 months in the lockdown.

The following points are worthy of our reflection today's readings, it was faith that brought healing to Bartimaeus, not his own faith but other people's faith. People who had seen Jesus' work miracles, they had seen Jesus heal the lepers, cure the sick, multiply the loaves and fish, even gave sight to some blind men. Bartimaeus would have heard from people about what Jesus was doing and maybe an invisible hope would have been born in his heart that, he too can receive healing if only he meets Jesus. He might have wished and prayed for Jesus to pass that way where he always sat begging. He must have been pleased to hear that Jesus was passing that way and he started shouting because his prayers were answered.

Bartimaeus was strategically positioned. when he learnt Jesus was passing through that route he shouted for help. God will always hear us from wherever and whenever we call upon Him. But to obtain favours, one needs to make himself available by being positioned strategically. Therefore, we are encouraged to pray in the Church, attend masses and pray before the blessed sacrament in adoration and worship and to make our petitions known before God.

We noticed that the crowd tried to stop Bartimaeus when he was shouting and crying for help, the crowd was large and the noise was loud, but that couldn't stop him either, He said to himself 'I shall make my cry louder than the noise of the crowd and I shall make my presence more prominent than the crowd. When he cried, the crowd took notice of his cry, but they considered that it was a nuisance. He was disturbing the discourse of Jesus. They told him to shut mouth. But Bartimaeus was not deterred by opinion of the crowd.

His need was greater than the desire of the crowd - So, he cried louder, Jesus' son of David has mercy on me! There are discouraging voices who tell you it is not possible or why waste your time waiting and hoping on God - "putting all your eggs in one basket".

My dear nothing is impossible with God, and nothing is impossible for a determined soul. Remember \*." And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us...\* Rom 5:5.

There are many forces of discouragement in our world today, like the voice of the crowd rebuking Bartimaeus to silence. It only takes a determined will and resolute faith to achieve our goals in life or obtain favours from God. \*If you don't know what you want or where you are going, others will decide for you. \*

Most times we are discouraged because we limit God's ability to solve our problems, this is spiritual blindness of some sort. When we lose faith, we are spiritually blind. Sin could also lead us to spiritual blindness. When we fail to see the good in others, we are blind. When we glory in vanity, we are blind. When we judge others and are greedy, we are blind. When we habitually engage in an immoral lifestyle, we are blind. When we think we cannot succeed without doing evil, we are blind. \*We must pray to have a clear vision of Christian values and priorities in our lives and to acknowledge the presence of God dwelling in ourselves and in our neighbours. \* A clear spiritual vision enables us to see the goodness in others, to express our appreciation for all that they have been doing for us, and to refrain from criticizing their performance.

Jesus had Pity for Bartimaeus and healed him because his faith overcame the discouraging voice of the crowd. It wasn't his voice but his persistent faith that attracted Jesus and Jesus endorsed this fact by telling him your faith has healed you. Jesus then asked him to make a request even though he already knew what the greatest need of this blind man could be. Jesus asked Bartimaeus to say what he wants from Him because God wants you to make your petitions known to Him. He already knows what you are going through and what you need but wants you to voice it out as a request. Therefore, we are encouraged to make mass requests and commend everything to God in prayers.

In prayers, our voices are heard. A prayer made in faith will always attract the kindness of God. Have you asked \*"...You do not have because you do not ask God\* James 4:2. Do not claim God knows, yes He knows but you have to ask?

Finally, when Bartimaeus received his sight, he followed Jesus on His way. Many would have gone off to celebrate with family and friends and throw parties. While it is not bad to celebrate with friends and member of our families, we must be mindful and be grateful for good acts done to us, Bartimaeus although was a beggar was a grateful man and he knew how to respond to good done unto him, like the psalmist he had a song to sing; The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with Joy. This he did by following Jesus daily, He wanted to always see the man who gave him his sight.

May the lessons we have learnt from Bartimaeus increase our faith; may his faith and experience teach us that Jesus cares for us more than anything else, may his faith and experience teach us that Jesus listens and answers any prayers that emerges from the pains of our heart.

In this mass, we pray that God will strengthen our faith to overcome any form of discouragement in life and in our spiritual struggle. We pray too that God will hear our prayers, restore our hope in Him and sanctify us in the ministry.

I keep you and your family always in my prayers.