

The Road Home:

“What Do I Really Want?”

Mark 10: 46-52, Psalm 34” 1-8

October 28, 2018

Bartemaues calls out...for mercy. A home away from home.

Mercy/compassion...not sight.

Hmmnnn...

Seems he seeks relationship over physical sight.

Remember, as a blind person, he was ostracized as it was thought that either he or his parents had sinned. Some around circle this week said it hasn't changed all that much.

We are still blamed...looked down upon...for our illnesses and disabilities. Even when Jesus came to upset all of that!

Jesus hears him. Jesus hears. He tells the disciples to invite him close and they say, Take heart, get up...he is calling you.

Home is where the heart is.

Jesus says,

“What do you want me to do for you?”

Bartemaues answers, “My teacher, let...LET...me see again.”

Even if Jesus lets him see, it's still up to Bartemaues to open his eyes and look.

***God makes possibilities; we make realities!

Even though Bartemaues cannot see, it seems he sees much about himself and the world.

He's done his home-work.

He cannot see Jesus is there but he knows he is. He calls out.

We cannot “see” Jesus either.

We have to know he is there and call out expecting to be heard, too...calling out till we know we are heard.

And Jesus' first words to Bart sound familiar because it's the same question he asked the disciples in last week's passage:

“What do you want me to do for you?”

But where James and John saw nothing but self-interest for a *future time by sitting in the right seats*,

Bart sees hope for the *present moment*... “let me see again!”

It seems he may see more than the sighted disciples.

He sees with eyes of faith.

Believing/loving is seeing...things differently!

Jesus responds to him saying “Your faith has made you well. Faith? Jesus didn’t teach us doctrine or church or right thinking.

For Him, it seems faith is about living in right relationship with self, God, others...being and doing... not mastering right ways of thinking.

From the Aramaic Jesus’ words would be translated more likely as “as you unite yourself to the creative/restorative power of God, becoming one with Holy life-giving intention, the one breath which is our spirit, as you join your suffering and compassion with that of the universe, you save yourself...you become well.”

As you go home with a new perspective, you see things differently. You are made well, able. Not cured, made well.

The story says Jesus recognized his faithfulness. But, how does Bart exactly demonstrate his faith to Jesus? How did he find a new perspective, courage in the midst of his reality?

Was it his persistence? ...his responding to the invitation? ...in his knowing what is the most needful thing to ask? ...all of these?

The gospel writer leaves it up to you to decide. I say, he came home to himself and so God...maybe the other way around!

Bartemaeus regains his sight (interesting, it doesn’t say he can see) and the story doesn’t end here.

Having thrown off his cloak...the constraints of his past...other’s perception, his “cloaking device!”...he moves

from beggar to disciple as he follows Jesus...literally... for us it would be figuratively....staying on the road home.

Bart is able to do what the rich man who kept the commandments all of his life was not able to do:

to let go of the past, others' perceptions, let go of constraints...
real and perceived, and follow.

Bart does not live in the hope of a future hope.

It isn't just positive thinking for a better future.

Bart lives hope. He lives in the present moment.

He isn't willing to go down quietly.

Won't let others silence him.

He is willing to throw off his cloak and change his life to live the life he longs to live starting right where and how he is.

When has believing in someone...like Bart believed in Jesus, opened your eyes to see them or yourself in a new light?

When has believing in yourself the way God believes in you, opened your eyes to seeing yourself in a new light?

Does your faith change the way you view things...
as depression creeps in, loneliness drains,

confrontation at work puts you on edge,

anger flares at the dinner table?

During such times

are you able to be one with God,

to live your faith, to see from different vantage point?

To stay "homed" and not become home-less?

People see this Jesus/faithing through many eyes/mind-sets:

the eyes of fear, the eyes of suspicion,

the eyes of judgment, the eyes of abandonment,

the eyes of complacency, the eyes of depression....

the eyes of hope. And still...

it is YOU who determines what you see.

Some don't see because they won't look at all.

Maybe they're afraid to look...maybe this is why the disciples say to Bart to "take heart"...be courageous!

Does your faith change the way you view things each day
or even at all? Or does it stay here Sunday to Sunday?

If your faith doesn't change the way you view things...
how you see what you see,

it probably has to do with
your unwillingness to throw off
those old tattered begging cloaks of yours...

*your unwillingness to really name for yourself what you most need....

*your unwillingness to be patiently persistent in calling out...

*your unwillingness when given the opportunity to see and be different, **to see and be different!**

Will you let yourself regain sight, be healed?

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What is true of individual healing, and our resistance to it,  
is even more true of the body of Christ, the church.

How often we endure without asking for help!  
And then blame others for not knowing or not showing up.

How often we resist throwing off the cloak of the past

more willing to stay stuck as beggars  
than to be healed into a new way of doing things.

We say we want things to change, but really, we resent it!

We have to ask ourselves as the church,  
"Do we really want to see, be healed?"

Friends, it's not obvious...  
often not obvious to those looking in  
from the outside.

It's not that God isn't clear about what's going on...  
it's that we are not.

And, there are some "advantages" in staying "unhealed".  
So often...it's easier to be "blind".

It's easier to do it yourself than pull together a group of people.

It's easier to give money or tp, than volunteer in Divine Intervention.

It's easier to stay home than come...or stay for Tippe Café.

It's easier to say you belong than to live your belonging.

It's easier to say we want more for and from our church...meaning the OTHER people  
in it....

than enable church to happen differently by saying: YES!

I'll come, I'll stay, I'll show up for that.

I am willing to be vulnerable....come without knowing the results or what may happen  
next.

It's easier to be sad about the state of the world,  
than do something about it!

It's easier to be blind and beg.

Today is Re-formation Sunday...when Luther opened his eyes to see where the church had gotten it so wrong...like Jesus was doing for the temple folks.

So many eye opening experiences surround us if we only had eyes to see...hearts open to feel...courage to be!

If we'd only stay on the road home!

Change your mind and the way you look at yourself and at the world. That's some real home-work!

Soften your heart to take a different stance within a stressful situation in your life.

As we open to deeply seeing,

the past turns to a new future, a sighted future... and we become well.

We find ourselves on that road...home!

*Now what is it you say you want?*