

Last Sunday after Trinity

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

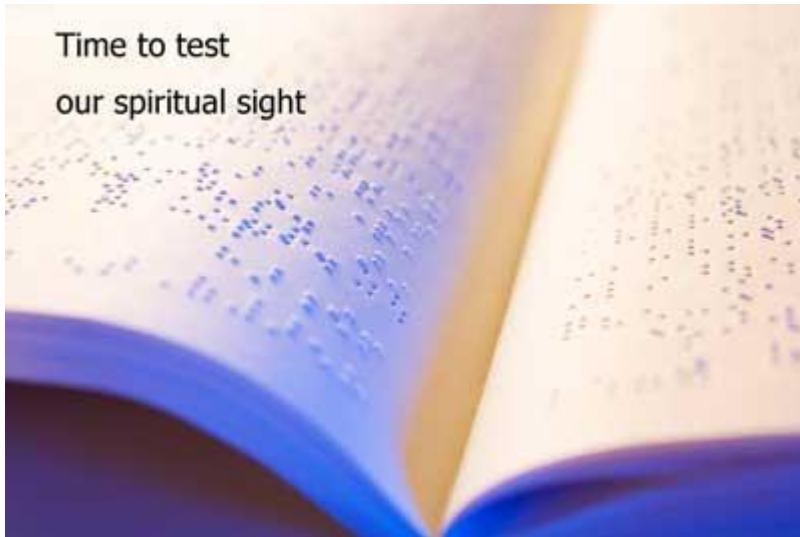
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn. *Jeremiah 31. 7 - 9*

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. *Hebrews 7. 23-28*

Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through
patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
one God, now and for ever. Amen



They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus

stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 10. 35 – 45

Reflection

We cannot begin to understand the plight of those born blind at the time of Jesus. Yet whilst James and John are arguing about who is going to be the biggest boss and have most authority, it is a blind beggar who rises above the dreadfulness of his condition to see who Jesus really is. Bartimaeus must have had a dreadful life as person with blindness, it meant that he would spend the whole of his life regarded as a drain on the resources of those around him. Somehow he believed that all this would not matter to Jesus.

So we are all encouraged to believe that, no matter what other people might think of us, we matter to Jesus. There is no prison from which we cannot be set free, no oppression from which we cannot be released. This is what being the messiah is all about for Jesus. It was with a statement about healing the blind that Jesus had started his ministry, with this last healing miracle in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus shows that he is still on track to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Bartimaeus was blind but there was nothing wrong with his spiritual vision, he recognised who Jesus was, do we have his vision? *@thisischurch*