

“Lord, that I may see”

The story of the blind man, Bartimaeus, is almost certainly an eye witness account of a real event. We find this blind man sitting next to the road begging for alms. When he hears that Jesus is passing by, without a second thought he cries out to him, calling him Son of David, a name which shows that this man believes Jesus is the Messiah.

People around try to silence him because there are Roman soldiers around who could arrest him for shouting this, but he is not to be silenced, and Jesus hears him and calls him over. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asks. “Master, let me see again”. Jesus, impressed by the man’s faith, cures him and immediately he becomes a disciple of Jesus, following him along the road to Jerusalem where Jesus will die.

We are all called to become Jesus’ disciples with the wholehearted joy of Bartimaeus, but our own spiritual short-sightedness and our blindness of heart can get in the way. It may be wealth and possessions, as it was for the rich young man, or a too comfortable way of life that blinds us to the needs of others and stops us helping them. It may be a grudge we nurse against another or a hurt we cannot or will not forgive. Whatever it is that blinds and binds us in our hearts from freely following Jesus, this story tells us that Jesus can and will cure us and set us free if only we ask in faith, like Bartimaeus, “Lord, that I may see”.

O Lord Jesus, grant that I
May see you more clearly,
Love you more dearly, and
Follow you more nearly
Every day of my life. Amen.