

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

Master, let me see!

INTRODUCTION

God gives us the gift of our five senses: touch, taste, hearing, smell, and sight. Often we take these for granted and give them little thought. Today we hear how a blind man named Bartimaeus begs Jesus to take pity on him and cure his blindness.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read:

A blind person cannot see the candle flame flickering in the darkness, but he or she can feel the warmth of its glow. Jesus is the light of the world; we see him in the people around us and feel the warmth of his love in their lives.

SORRY

The words of St. Paul remind us that as Christians, we are called to follow Christ and live as he taught us:

You are God's chosen people. Always be ready to care for others and to be kind and gentle. Be patient and calm, and never boast about or be proud of your goodness. Just as God always forgives you, so you must always be forgiving towards others. Fill your hearts with love, and whatever you do, do it for God.

(Colossians 3:12-13, 23)

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open my eyes to see you

in the world around me, Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (MARK 10:46-52)

Jesus and his followers were leaving Jericho, when they passed a blind beggar called Bartimaeus sitting at the roadside. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth had passed by, Bartimaeus began to shout loudly, "Jesus, have pity and help me!"

The crowd told him to calm down and be quiet, but Bartimaeus kept on shouting until Jesus heard his cries. "Bring that man to me," said Jesus, and they led Bartimaeus to him. "What can I do for you?" he asked, and Bartimaeus said, "Master, let me see!"

Then Jesus told him, "Go. Because you believe in me, your sight has returned." Suddenly Bartimaeus could see clearly, and he set off at once to follow Jesus.

DISCUSSION

Why was Bartimaeus begging at the roadside? Because he could not see, Bartimaeus was unable to work to earn enough money to feed and clothe himself. He had to beg from passers-by and rely on their kindness and generosity to save him from starvation.

What would you miss most if you could not see? (Encourage the children to share their thoughts.)

Bartimaeus believed that Jesus could cure his blindness, and save him from a life of misery. When he heard Jesus passing by, Bartimaeus shouted loudly to attract Jesus' attention and did not give up even when the crowd told him to be quiet.

When he heard Bartimaeus' cry for help, Jesus did not let him down but healed him. Bartimaeus then followed Jesus because his heart and mind—as well as his eyes—had been opened by God's love. Because of his faith, he could "see" with his heart that Jesus was, indeed, the son of God.

ACTIVITY

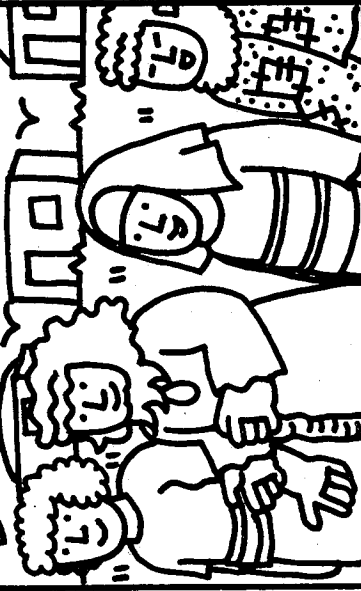
Assemble copies of the illustrated story into mini-books, which can then be read aloud and colored by the children.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

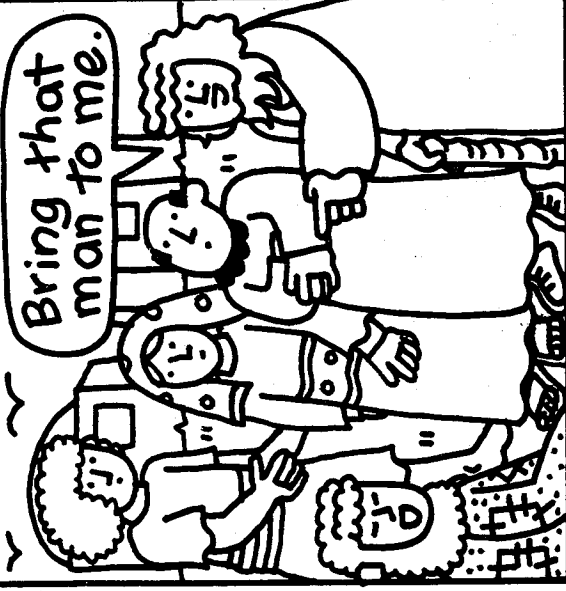
Dear Jesus, today we pray
for blind people everywhere
and for those who help care for them.
Thank you for the gift of sight,
which allows us to see
the beauty of your world.

BARTIMAEUS

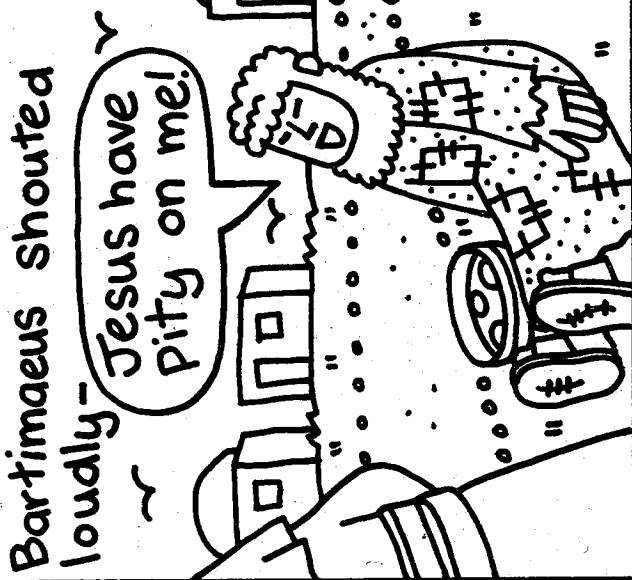


One day Jesus passed a blind beggar called Bartimaeus.

Jesus said -



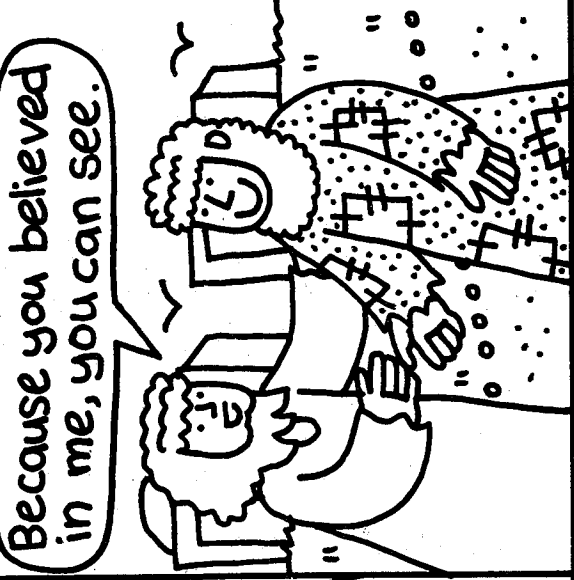
Bring that man to me.



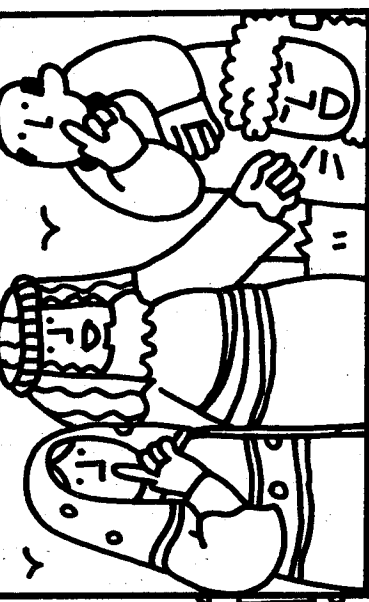
Bartimaeus shouted loudly -

Jesus have pity on me!

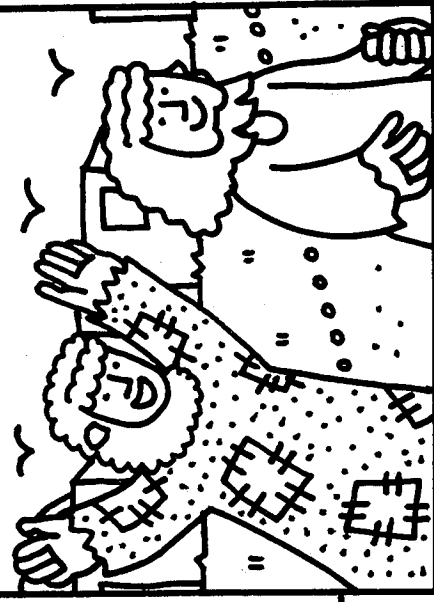
Jesus said -



Because you believed in me, you can see.



The crowd told him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus did not give up.



Bartimaeus shouted for joy and set off to follow Jesus.