

## Postscript

The words of this thought-provoking song echo today's message from the Bartimaeus story.

### The Summons by John L. Bell and Graham Maule (Iona Community)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me

# NAMBUCCAVALLEY ANGLICANS WORSHIP at HOME

24.10.2021

## SUPPLEMENT

### SENTENCE, COLLECT, READINGS & HOMILY for today 24 October 2021

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### Sentence

The redeemed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
and everlasting joy  
shall be upon their heads.

Isaiah 51.11



## Collect Prayer of the Week

Almighty and everlasting God,  
give to us the increase of faith, hope and love;  
and, that we may obtain what you promise,  
make us to love what you command;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Collect Prayer of the Day

O God,  
you give light to the blind and comfort to the sorrowing,  
and in your Son you have given us a High Priest  
who has offered the true sacrifice for us  
and yet can sympathise with us in our weakness:  
hear the cry of your people  
and lead us home to our true country,  
where with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting.  
Amen.

## Conclusion

To return to the opening question,

### **Q: What are you willing to cast aside in order to answer the call of faith?**

Our answer, both as individuals and as a church, needs to be –  
whatever separates us from God,  
whatever hinders our following Jesus,  
whatever distracts us from the leading of Holy Spirit ...  
whatever that is - big or small.

Any barriers that will trip us up on the way to the Cross of Christ  
are to be cast aside, in order to answer the call of faith.

Oh wow! I'm thinking that's a tall ask. I'm one with you in that perception.

Yet, we know the way. Faith through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the way.  
Bartimaeus knew the way. He held on to a living faith. We are called by none  
other than Jesus himself. Daily, he invites us into a personal, healing and intimate  
relationship with him. Let's not be distracted or detoured. He awaits our direct  
response –

*"Yes Lord, I come to you."*

Will we be ready to leave the baggage that holds us back?  
Or will we be hampered by stuff that stymies us?

Will our parish be ready to break down the barriers and brandish the baton for  
Jesus in our community? Or will our church become spiritually and missionally  
blind, clinging to old comforts?

Pray that Jesus will help us and our parish discard all that hinders us, so that we  
can see him afresh and follow him afar.

Let nothing hold us back from following the One who can heal and save.

insistently sought out Jesus. Bartimaeus' *belief* rested in Jesus and Bartimaeus' *behaviours* responded to Jesus. He stepped forward into the calling of Christ.

*"Go!" said Jesus, "your faith has healed you."*

Mark 10.52

We have much to learn from Bartimaeus' resilience. Bartimaeus had one strong resource – his voice. The crowd tried to repel him, rebuke him, rob him of this golden opportunity to be healed and restored. Praise God! Bartimaeus rose above the crowd's crushing and was richly blessed.

With God's help, we too can rise above society's snubbing of the gospel message. The voice of our faith, both as individuals and as a church, can make a real difference wherever we go. We can raise our voices for Jesus and refuse to be silenced.

**Q: How are we, both individually and corporately, going to cast aside the "crowd's silencing" so that we can raise our voices to the call of faith?**

#### **Bartimaeus discarded:**

3. **His separation from Jesus**, i.e. Bartimaeus favoured instead a personal and upfront encounter with Jesus.

*... he jumped to his feet at once and came to Jesus.*

Mark 10.50

Bartimaeus abandoned separation from Jesus. Without having met him, Bartimaeus called on Jesus by name. In fact, he not only called out, but he actually caused a ruckus! Ignoring all dissuasion, Bartimaeus closed the gap and emphatically stepped towards Jesus. No longer would Bartimaeus remain a passive observer – he abandoned separation from Jesus and adamantly insisted on responding to the call of faith. Restored to spiritual sight, Bartimaeus became a new disciple going forward in faith.

*He got it!* Despite his blindness, Bartimaeus recognised Jesus as the Messiah, discerning Jesus' power and compassion. His faith in Jesus brought about healing and much, much more.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

Reading from the Old Testament: **Job 42:1-6, 10-17**

- <sup>1</sup> Then Job replied to the Lord :
- <sup>2</sup> 'I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- <sup>3</sup> You asked,  
"Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?" Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. <sup>4</sup> 'You said, "Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me."  
<sup>5</sup> My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. <sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.'
- <sup>10</sup> After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.
- <sup>11</sup> All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.
- <sup>12</sup> The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.
- <sup>13</sup> And he also had seven sons and three daughters.
- <sup>14</sup> The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch.
- <sup>15</sup> Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.
- <sup>16</sup> After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.
- <sup>17</sup> And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

## Psalm 34:1-8

- 1 I will bless the Lord continually:  
**his praise shall be always in my mouth.**
- 2 Let my soul boast of the Lord:  
**the humble shall hear it and rejoice.**
- 3 O praise the Lord with me:  
**let us exalt his name together.**
- 4 For I sought the Lord's help and he answered:  
**and he freed me from all my fears.**
- 5 Look towards him and be bright with joy:  
**your faces shall not be ashamed.**
- 6 Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me:  
**and saved me from all my troubles.**
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him:  
**and delivers them in their need.**
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is good:  
**happy are they that hide in him!**

*Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."*

*So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Mark 10.49*

Every day, each one of us (like Bartimaeus) is summoned afresh to pursue God's will in spite of obstacles or doubts. When we yearn to be with Jesus, nothing – NOUGHT – can distract us. Bartimaeus cast off his cloak, critical to his physical survival, to hasten more eagerly towards Jesus.

This is true for the body of all believers, the church, as well. In the pursuit of God's plans for our local community, our parish may need to overcome many barriers that constrict our reaching out to others in the name of Jesus.

**Q: How are we, both individually and corporately, going to cast aside the "Bartimaeus cloak" so that we can answer the call of faith?**

**Bartimaeus discarded:**

2. **His social constraints** i.e., whatever crowded out his Jesus connection

*Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. Mark 10.52*

The story builds up. At first, the crowd excluded Bartimaeus. They tried to silence him. Collectively, they stood between him and Jesus.

*Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet ...*

Mark 10.48

Yet when Jesus stopped to speak with Bartimaeus, those same people then *encouraged* Bartimaeus.

Crowd sentiment can be so fickle. It can even become dangerous and violent. Many examples can be drawn from recent news events à COVID protests in Melbourne and Sydney; riots in Washington following last year's USA elections.

Relationally, Bartimaeus stepped away from his hometown neighbours – putting aside those familiar ties – in order to soak up the mercy of Christ. He disregarded their social pressures to deny the Son of God and even more

**Q: What are you willing to cast aside in order to answer the call of faith?**

**Bartimaeus discarded:**

- I. **His cloak**, i.e., his worldly goods

*Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.* Mark 10.50

Bartimaeus represents the poorest of the poor. Marginalized by poverty and disability, he is a liminal character – waiting in the wings, outside the cut and thrust of society and religious observation, outside normal family life.

Yet, this man of great poverty and dislocation does possess - *a cloak*. The cloak represents much more than a wardrobe item – it is his only valued possession. For people living in poverty in Jesus' day, the cloak was a garment that provided warmth and comfort by day, a blanket by night and a mat to spread for alms when begging.

In Exodus 22.26-27, God's says of a person's cloak,

*"If you take your neighbour's cloak as security, give it back before nightfall; it may be your neighbour's only covering – what else does the person have to sleep in? And if I hear the neighbour cry out from the cold, I'll step in – I'm compassionate."*

So crucial a garment even in the eyes of the Lord – yet Bartimaeus willingly walked away from this much prized item. When Bartimaeus threw off his cloak, it was a show of faith. Even before it happened, Bartimaeus believed that Jesus would heal him and he would no longer need the cloak for protection or for begging.

Bartimaeus became a radical disciple of Jesus - he was set free from all impediments. Taking up the call of Christ, Bartimaeus moved forward into a new journey of faith. Now, he had the real deal in his sight - there was no stopping him!

**New Testament Reading: Heb 7:21-28**

- <sup>21</sup> But he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:  
‘The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind:  
“You are a priest for ever.”’
- <sup>22</sup> Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.
- <sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;
- <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood.
- <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.
- <sup>26</sup> Such a high priest truly meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
- <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.
- <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect for ever.

## Gospel of Mark 10:46-52

- 46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means 'son of Timaeus'), was sitting by the roadside begging.
- 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout,  
'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'
- 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more,  
'Son of David, have mercy on me!'
- 49 Jesus stopped and said,  
'Call him.'
- So they called to the blind man,  
'Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.'
- 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.
- 51 'What do you want me to do for you?'  
Jesus asked him. The blind man said,  
'Rabbi, I want to see.'
- 52 'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.'  
Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

## REFLECTION by Lesle Cropp

24<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Year B  
Mark 10.46-52 – Jesus heals Bartimaeus

**Q: What are you willing to cast aside in order to answer the call of faith?**

### Introduction

I like the name Bartimaeus. The only other Bart I can recall is Bart Simpson. He probably needs a life-changing encounter with Jesus as much as the blind beggar in today's gospel reading.

**Have you ever had to cast off belongings, places, identities in order to answer a calling?**

I know that dilemma well. My childhood was spent following the transfers of my father who was in the RAAF. When my mum and dad had been married 22 years, they'd lived in 26 separate dwellings. Every two years or so, we would sift through our goods and chattels to determine what could be discarded and what we might pack for the journey. My parents would search out real estate in the new town in order to re-establish a home life for our family in a different location. We would each of us try to re-assemble our identities at school and work, church and neighbourhood. We soon learned what we were willing to dispose of in order to remain strong and relevant – to keep our lives moving forward.

This was the dilemma for Bartimaeus. Faced with a golden opportunity to interact with Jesus, *the Son of David*, Bartimaeus had to quickly discard the baggage in his life. He had to shed the things that hindered him, and seek out those things that healed him, in order to respond to the call of Jesus.

My mum and dad had to shed the things that hampered a move to the next RAAF Base and seek out the things that helped them to re-settle their family, in order to respond to the next Air Force posting.