

“35: And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

36: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

37: And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

38: And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

39: And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

40: And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

41: Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

42: And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

43: And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God:”

These words in the Gospel this morning tells a story that happened that day along the road to Jericho.

How a person who was hurting, heard that this “Jesus of Nazareth” was near

so he cried out the NAME OF JESUS, thou Son of David (which, in those days, had a messianic meaning.)

this morning I want to carry forward this story to each one of us.

And not just to us but as well to the world in which we live.

A world which was foretold by Jesus when He said “**ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake (LK 21:17.)**”

Many of us are like the beggar and in need.

Some of us hurt physically, some are in the mental darkness of despair, while others are in spiritual decay, denial, or emptiness.

We are like the beggar for we each search for a cure of what ails us – whether it be physically, spiritually, or mentally.

And while we are told of the beggars cure - many of us seek to know that our cure is here or near.

So, in a way, we are along this road with the beggar, as were they following Jesus in the Gospel reading

as they went searching and seeking.

In this story as the multitude of people were traveling, some with Jesus, to Jerusalem,

they were heading towards the temple – to worship,

and this included bringing an offering.

But today you and I do not need to do as they.

Jesus has made the offering (HIMSELF) for our sins and the evil darkness which dwells within many of us ... even the Sins of the Whole World.

He died for you and I – so that the illness of our sins - could be cured – once and for all.

No more sacrifices need to be made.

The Son of God has repaid what we are incapable of paying. He made a sacrifice ...

and he did this out of His love for you and me.

So what are we going to do with this great gift of Salvation which our Lord has given us?

“For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph 2:8.)

Are we going to take hold of this faith –

this gift that God has given unto us –

are we going to plant it in the center of our lives?

Or are we going to reject His Love and salvation? –

Or are we going to be neither hot nor cold, but be “lukewarm” to be “spew (ed)” out of the mouth of our Lord as told in Revelation (3:16)?

You see, we all have to make a decision (just as did the beggar alongside the road.)

Do we follow Christ or not?

Jesus identified himself with His Church.

This church in which you sit this morning –

it is not the walls which we are seated within,

but it is within the Body of Christ in which we sit.

Do we understand what an honor it is – to be sitting here – worshipping
– and partaking of all the benefits of receiving His Body and Blood?

When we are within this house of God we should all feel secure and
warm within His Love,

and if we truly believe that Jesus was the Son of God –

and that he suffered death and rose from the dead for our sins –

and if you truly try to do the will of the Father,

then not only are you and I brothers and sisters,

but even more important – for it is Jesus Christ who tells us that we are
“His brother and His sister” (Matt 12:50.)

However, we must not only be Christians within the warmth of this
church building, but we are to take this faith to the streets!

In 2 Corinthians we are told by Paul

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?

for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them;

and I will be their God, and they shall be my people:

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,

and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,:

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my **sons and daughters**, saith the Lord Almighty.(16-18)”

And we are not to do this privately

_for it is our Lord who tells us

“Neither do men light a **candle**, and put it under a bushel, but on a **candlestick**; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt 5:15).

So we are to be strong in our faith, grow in our faith, and then we are to be a light to all - to bring others unto our Lord.

And yet, this world is as the Lord Prophesized – as there is a “hatred” of the name of Jesus in many places

within our communities, our state, our nation, and around the world.

We must not only have faith but we must have a faith which is alive

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works** is dead also” (James 2:26).

We must put our faith to work.

Sadly, there are those within the Christian Faith that have lost their way.

They need our prayers and our love.

From the beginning of the church it was told that a “**time** will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;

but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4: And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Tim 4:3-4).

This is why it is important for the Traditional Anglican Church to remain faithful to Scripture and Traditional interpretation.

We must remain faithful to what has been since the church’s founding at the day of Pentecost.

We must not be for or against this or that – but we need to stand for what is Scriptural as defined by the history of the Church –

for what has stood the test of time for over two thousand years.

We must remain a light of Truth – which does not change – which is eternal.

Profess the name of Jesus publicly and a multitude of reactions will be observed.

And why? Why does a name that reflects pure love bring such anger?

Simply because those uncomfortable with the name of Jesus follow their own God (s) of this world,

and they do not want anything to do with anything that involves judgment.

We are not to be proud and arrogant because we may have something that others lack (faith in Christ)

but we should profess the Gospel with love and humility –

and with full of confidence.

As the beggar was told to be quiet for calling upon the name of Jesus – we may be told the same thing.

But we must learn from the beggar (as well as many others within Scripture)

that endurance and diligence in proclaiming the name of Jesus is not only right - but as well it is rewarding.

We must not be scared about things of this world and seek the things eternal –

Fear Not we are told over and over in Scripture.

We each have many talents and gifts and we need to give them unto the Lord.

Come forward this morning to receive Him with a pure heart and allow your spirit to be renewed and strengthened.

Let His Love propel you towards serving Him above all else.

Love God - Love your Neighbor and show forth your faith and shine that Light abroad which brings eternal life.

Smile, receive the sight of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour (as did the begger); for then thy faith will saved you.