

**From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, October 24th, Pentecost XXII
Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52**

This Gospel lends itself to a number of topics for discussion.

We can talk about blind Bartimaeus asking Jesus to see again, this after Jesus asks him what he wants him to do for him.

This suggests being clear and specific what we want from Jesus in prayer.

But before all that, Bartimaeus jumps up and throws off his cloak. This may be about him coming to Jesus with nothing hidden. Being vulnerable before the Lord.

Even when we don't get what we ask for in prayer.

There are basically I think, three types of prayer,

The first and most common is; Help. Asking something of God either for ourselves or others,

There is Thanksgiving, and recognizing God's support through the storms of life we have and will face.

And the third is silence.

There is a sense of vulnerability in asking for help and thanking God for the help we have received, but being open to what God has to say and show us is the most vulnerable if we come truly in silence before the Lord.

The previous two are us controlling the topic and agenda, and speaking to God, the third is more about God showing us what God expects of us.

What are we to learn to think and do differently than we are doing now. Who knows what God will show us if we are open to this and be in silence before the Lord.

This is somehow counter intuitive, as we tend to think we need to always be strong and in control. The reality is that we are all like Bartimaeus, we all are blind in some way and in need as well.

That is the key I think, because this means we don't have to be alone. There are always others who understand what we are going through, and we have that in common.

It has been said before, it is our strengths which seem to cause us to separate us from others, but it is our needs and weaknesses which cause us to join community and seek relationship with others, and with God as well.

Amen