

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
October 24, 2021
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 31:7-9 † Hebrews 5:1-6 † Mark 10:46-52



Reflection by: Alice McCoy, OP

I find myself reflecting on these readings from the sacred scripture in the emotional "environment" of politics and elections all around us. Everywhere we look we find "crowds" searching for a powerful figure who will hear what they are calling for and change it to their way of seeing and doing. It seems that this is the perception of Jesus that the crowds chasing him had. Bartimaeus appears to have had this perception and shouts out to Jesus to have pity on him and answer his plea for sight. The crowd rebukes him and tells him to shut up. It seems that this response is because the one calling out for help was a beggar and disabled physically. He was not among the socially elite.

Jesus' response gives us the example of what Paul tells us in the letter to the Hebrews is the example of a "high priest." His attention is not focused on the upper class and the elite. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and the erring. Bartimaeus' call has Jesus stop and tell those "following" him to call the blind beggar. He attentively asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" When he responds that he wants to see, Jesus tells him to go forward and know that "your faith has saved you."

The powerful end of the story is that his prayer was answered. He received the sight he asked for. And what did he do when he got it? He followed Jesus on the "WAY." His faith continues to be his salvation!

Master...help me to see, too!