

JESUS AND BARTIMAEUS

This is the season of Lent, the time to get ready to celebrate the Mystery of Easter. We are all on the way to Jerusalem. Who will show us the way? Jesus shows us the way.

Once every year the people of God go up to Jerusalem, the holy city of God, to celebrate the feast of the Passover. To remember how God led them through the waters to freedom.

This year as Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, people came to him.

They came to be close to him because they knew Jesus would not turn anyone away, even if they were little children... even if they were crippled or very poor... and even if they were sick and scared, and no one would talk to them.

Bartimaeus was begging outside the city of Jericho. He was begging because he was blind. He couldn't see anything, But Bartimaeus could hear.

When he heard Jesus going by, he shouted. "Jesus, help me."

The people said to Bartimaeus, "Be quiet. Don't bother Jesus. Be quiet!"

But Bartimaeus shouted louder, "Jesus, help me!" And Jesus stopped.

"Bring him to me," he said.

"What do you want?" Jesus asked.

"I want to see."

Jesus touched Bartimaeus' eyes.

"Then receive your sight!" Immediately Bartimaeus could see.

Bartimaeus and all the people were so happy that they couldn't help but give thanks to God. And Bartimaeus followed Jesus on the way to Jerusalem.

I wonder why Jesus would come near to Bartimaeus when others would not bother with him?

The Lord be with you!

This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday in Lent and the color is purple. We are getting ready for the Mystery of Easter. For the next few weeks, we are on a journey to Jerusalem with Jesus.

This story of Jesus and Bartimaeus is found in Matthew chapter 20:29-34, Mark chapter 10:46-52 and Luke chapter 18:35-43.

In the Church of England (from which the American Episcopal Church comes) the Fourth Sunday in Lent is called Mothering Sunday. This Sunday in mid-Lent is a celebration of Mother Church, our Mothers and Gifts of Mother Earth. So I have sent a card to your mothers thanking them for all the good they do for you and your families.

Have a good week. Be safe.

I miss you!