

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

God heals and restores our brokenness.

The readings for this Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time bring us to contemplate God's marvelous deeds in our lives. The readings speak to the fact that God never abandons or forsakes us, even when we falter or depart from His way. They remind us that God hears our human cries and gathers us into His loving embrace.

In the first reading, God offered words of comfort and hope to His suffering people in exile in Babylon. God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah to heal the wounds of the remnant of Israel who yearned in many years for freedom, homecoming, healing, and restoration. God heard their cries and promised them His gracious intervention. He used the Persian emperor, Cyrus to liberate His chosen people from captivity and returned them safely to their homeland in Jerusalem. The Lord restored His people and renewed their fortune.

The psalmist reminds us to always recognize God's marvelous deeds in our lives. The psalmist invites us to sing praise and glory to God for restoring and renewing us in His love and mercy.

In the gospel, Jesus brought healing and restoration to Bartimaeus, who was blind and sat by the roadside begging for money. Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing through Jericho to Jerusalem. He cried out to the Lord for help. Sadly, the people around tried to silence Bartimaeus. They told him to keep quiet, but he persistently called out to Jesus to have pity on him. Bartimaeus caught Jesus' attention, and he threw his cloak aside and came to Him. The Lord inquired what he wanted Him to do for him. The blindman wanted Jesus to restore his sight for him. Jesus told him to go his way, for his faith has saved him. Bartimaeus received his sight, and he followed the Lord on the way.

The liberation and homecoming of the exiled people and the healing of the blindman offer us food for thought. All of us can see ourselves in the remnant of Israel, the crowd and Bartimaeus. Like the Israel of old, we go the wrong way. We too stray from the path of the Lord. Sometimes, we behave like the crowd who tried to silence Bartimaeus or prevent him from meeting Jesus. We get blinded by prejudice and indifference. We care less about the goodness of others, especially those most in need.

We need the Lord to free us from our weaknesses and shortcomings. Let us turn to Him in faith and ask Him to heal our brokenness and restore us to new life. Like, Bartimaeus, let us throw our cloak aside and follow Jesus on the way, bringing love, care, and compassion to all those we meet or encounter in our lives.

God bless,

Rev. Dr. Ben