



Bible Study Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

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And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Mk. 10:48 NABRE

Reading I: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Never give up! Never Give in! This slogan is founded on unwavering hope. Hope is also the foundation of this quote from the celebrated African American Olympian, Jesse Owens who said; "*We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.*" Yes, determination, dedication and self-discipline start with hope. *Likewise, our quest for eternal life starts with hope.* To attain eternal life, requires determination. We must be dedicated to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must be disciplined enough to resist temptation. This, of course, is not easy, it takes effort. We will reach heaven if we never give up trying to get there, if we live in the Spirit and never give in to the ways of the world.

The first reading from Jeremiah is part of

**"AND SO LORD, WHERE DO I PUT
MY HOPE
MY ONLY HOPE IS IN YOU."
Psalm 36:7 (NABRE)**

the second of a series of four poems celebrating the return of Israel from the Babylonian Exile. Israel could survive exile if they lived in hope that Yahweh would deliver them. Jeremiah knew that Israel should not give up and give in to the torment of their captors. The assurance of their deliverance required that they keep the hope of deliverance alive. They had to live with the hope of redemption.

The optimism of Jeremiah's prophecy is summed up in verse 31:8. A vast number of Israelites of all types, conditions and from many lands would return home. Even those with broken spirits will be refreshed (v. 9). Jeremiah might have said, "Never give up! The Lord will restore even the disadvantaged (the blind), the able bodied and those about to give birth, to the Promised Land.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Is there anyone in your life who needs HOPE? What can you do to help them? Do you need Hope? How will helping them also help you?

Hope

What virtue does it take to remain optimistic, in the face of disaster? It takes hope to say: "Never give up." It takes the virtue of hope. Hope is one of the three theological virtues. Faith and Charity (Love) are the other two.

Hope is one of the three main elements of Christian character (1 Cor 13:13). It is joined to faith and love, and is opposed to seeing or possessing (Rom 8:24; 1 John 3:2). "Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself designate the essence of Christianity (1 Peter 3:15; Heb 10:23). In it the whole glory of the Christian vocation is centered (Eph 1:18; 4:4)." Unbelievers are without this hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). Christ is the actual object of the believer's hope, because it is in his second coming that the hope of glory will be fulfilled (1 Tim 1:1; Col 1:27; Titus 2:13). It is spoken of as "lively", i.e., a living, hope, a hope not frail and perishable, but having a perennial life (1 Peter 1:3). In Rom 5:2 the "hope" spoken of is probably objective, i.e., "the hope set before us," namely, eternal life (comp. 12:12). In 1 John 3:3 the expression "hope in him" ought rather to be, as in the Revised Version, "hope on him," i.e., a hope based on God.

Hope -from Easton's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

Reading II: Hebrews 5:1-6

Never Give Up! Never give in! Even in our weakness we are made strong because Christ, our Brother and the Son of God, saves us. The writer of Hebrews identified Jesus as the High Priest. (2:17; 3:1; 4: 14-15) The fact that Christ, the Son of God, is our advocate with God the Father gives us hope. That is why we must persevere, even in despair.

In Chapter 5:1-6 the writer gives the three qualifications of a high priest: 1)He is chosen from among human beings; 2)He performs his representative functions because he shares human weaknesses; 3)He is called to his office by God and not by his own choice. Christ received His office as High Priest from God. Because Christ has a human persona, He gently deals with us since He too knows human suffering and ignorance. The image of Jesus as High Priest reminds us to never give up. Never give in. DISCUSSION QUESTION: Does the sacrifice of Jesus the High Priest give you hope? Why or why not?

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Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Never give up! Never give in! This is what someone should have told Bartimaeus. On the contrary, the crowd tried to quiet him. But he did not give up. He cried out even louder, as others tried to silence him. It took *determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort for him to* attain his dream of gaining his sight. It also took hope. He hoped that Jesus would hear him. Bartimaeus hoped that in the midst of his blindness, Jesus would see his condition. He did not give up and his eyes were opened.

Bartimaeus had determination, which is defined as strength of the mind, or will power. He sat by the side of the road even though he could not see what passed before him. He was disciplined. Even though he could not see where he was actually seated, he refused to move from his spot. He was determined. He refused to be silenced. (vv.46-48) Bartimaeus used the resources he had to gain his sight. He did not give up.

Perhaps Bartimaeus had heard of Jesus and that He could be the promised Messiah. The use of the title, "Son of David" was a reference to the Messiah-King promised by God. (2 Sam. 7:12-16) One of the associations of the coming of the Messiah was the opening of the eyes of the blind. (Isa.29:18) Perhaps this gave Bartimaeus hope. He did not give up. "Have pity on me," he cried. With these words he echoed the plea of the afflicted in Ps 6:3 and Ps 25:16.

Bartimaeus and the Syrophenician woman (7:25-29) have one thing in common; they are toughened by the rebuke of the crowd. Perhaps this is what caught Jesus' attention. Also, perhaps Bartimaeus knew that: "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Joel 3:5 Acts 2:21). Note that Jesus asked those who rebuked him to "call him." Perhaps Jesus wanted to give Bartimaeus an opportunity to forgive those who had offended him. Bartimaeus jumped at the opportunity to see. His clear response to Jesus' question: "What will you have me do?" (v. 51) is a clear contrast to the request from James and John in Mk. 10:36. Bartimaeus' reply shows a healing of both body and soul. He was saved because he did not give up. He was saved because he did not give in to the demands of the world. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Does the story of Bartimaeus give you hope? With whom do you most closely identify in this gospel story? Explain.

PRAY ABOUT IT!

Monday

Read Mark 10:47. What will you shout about Jesus today?

Tuesday

Read Mark 10:48. Do your actions stop others from coming to Jesus Christ?

Wednesday

Read Hebrews 4:14-15. Offer yourself in service to someone, or to your parish, or community.

Thursday

Pray a decade of the rosary for self-discipline.

Friday

Pray this prayer several times today: "**Lord Jesus Son of God, have mercy on me.**"

JERICO

*Jericho is one of the oldest cities in the world. The name first appears in the biblical record when the Israelites encamped at Shittim on the east side of the Jordan River (Num 22:1; 26:3). Joshua sent spies to examine the city (Josh 2) and later took the city by perhaps the most unorthodox method in the history of warfare (Josh 6). Joshua placed a curse on anyone who would attempt to rebuild Jericho (Josh 6:26). **New Testament Jericho.** In the early years of Herod the Great, the Romans plundered Jericho. But Herod later beautified the city and ultimately died there. Jesus passed through Jericho on numerous occasions. Near there He was baptized in the Jordan River (Matt 3:13-17), and on the adjacent mountain range, He was tempted (Matt 4:1-11). Between Old Testament Jericho and New Testament Jericho Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). Here too Zacchaeus was converted (Luke 19:1-10). And Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan has the road from Jerusalem to Jericho as its setting (Luke 10:30-37).*

Resources - The Collegeville Bible Commentary Old Testament, Jeremiah- Peter J. Ellis, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville Minn. pp468-469; *The Gospel of Mark*, Peter S. Williamson and Mary Healy, General Editors, Baker Academics, (c) 2008. All rights reserved 212-124. *The Collegeville Bible Commentary, New Testament* – Mark - Philip Van Linden, C. M. The Liturgical Press, Collegeville Minn. pp 920-924 *The Collegeville Bible Commentary, New Testament* – Hebrews – George W. McRae, S. J., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville Minn. pp. 1252-1253. Jericho - from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers) : Jesse Owens - <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/determination.html#BHse1z1FO9vTIRtK.99>;

This meditation is prepared by Deacon Terrel J. Broussard for personal use in Adult Faith Formation at St. Peter Claver Parish in New Orleans, La. ©2012