

# son of poverty

On the surface, this (Mark 10:46-52) is yet another story of Jesus restoring someone to health. But, it may go a bit deeper than that, for in Aramaic (the language that Jesus and his contemporaries spoke) "Bartimaeus" means "Son of Poverty," or "Son of The Unclean." So, this is an interaction that Jesus has with someone who is quite literally on the outskirts of society. It's also an interaction which shows the difference between someone who Jesus identifies with having faith, and the disciples. For when Jesus asks James and John (in last week's Gospel lesson) what they want, they want power and honor. When Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants, he wants to see Jesus.

After being excoriated by God for an utter lack of humility, Job (Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Track 1) returns to his usual gracious self and seeks to make things right with God again. God reverses all that caused Job so much pain, and he shuns Job's friends for saying that God punishes people for their sins.

The prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:7-9, track 2) was active just prior to Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army coming to destroy Jerusalem and capture the surviving inhabitants. In this passage

he looks forward to God bringing the captives home again. The message is clear: God does not abandon his people.

In the lesson from Hebrews (Hebrews 7:23-28) the unknown author continues his argument that the priesthood of Jesus supersedes all forms of earthly priesthoods. Earthly priests are mortal, are sinners themselves, and have to offer sacrifices not only for the people's sins, but for their own sins.

## **Prayer**

Give us eyes, O Lord, that we might see you. Give us faith, O Lord, that we might hold you in our hearts. Give us hope, O Lord, that we might know your presence with us even when we are at our lowest. And, give us grace, O Lord, to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

## **On the way to "soccer practice"...**

Tell the story of Bartimaeus. Remember his blindness, that his name means "son of poverty," and that his faith restored him to health. How can we be more like him? Do we know anyone who has faith like Bartimaeus had faith?