

**The Question of the Week**

“Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.”

Mark 10:47

How do you pray? I ask that question of people with some regularity. Almost always there is a momentary hesitation, as if the person is thinking that somehow their prayer will not be right, or will not measure up or they are praying the wrong way. There isn't always a quiet confidence in the person when I ask that question. But I don't ask it to criticize but to offer help. One of the simplest and best things I ever learned about praying is this: Pray from where you are. Do not try to pray from where you are not. Does that make sense to you?

What it meant to me was that there is something inside many of us, as adults, that tells us we have to pray from this certain place where we are good and thoughtful and we have our lives together. But that is not what Our Lord is asking of us or desires of us. What the Lord wants is for our prayer to be real—not perfect. How do I know this, you might ask? Is it ever said anywhere explicitly in the Scriptures? Probably not. But take today's story of blind Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus is sitting with his cloak opened before him to catch any coins that kind passersby might pitch onto it. Jesus is passing by. Bartimaeus has never seen him but he sure has heard about him. And he is not at all content to have Jesus walk right past him while he remains invisible to Jesus because he is sitting by the side of the road and the crowd is so large walking with Jesus. So he cries out. And they shush him. So he cries out louder. Until he is heard.

My friends, Jesus calls to him, asks him what he wants and grants his request. Bartimaeus cried out from his heart, from his plight. From where he was—literally and figuratively. His cry was his prayer. The cry of the heart. That is what Jesus wants us. That is how we are to pray. Does that sound right to you? That, my friends, is the question of the week.