

Master, I Want to See

30th Week of Ordinary Time – Mark 10:46-52

A number of years ago I underwent cataract surgery. My eyes had gotten to a point that I did not like to drive in the dark. I knew it had gotten pretty bad, but it wasn't until I had the first eye done that I could actually tell the difference. In the two weeks between the left and the right eye surgeries, I was amazed at the clarity and definition with which I could actually see the edges of a picture frame or be engaged with the fullness and richness of color in the world. By the time both eyes were done, I was amazed that I had ever been able to see anything. I had gone from a dull, yellow cast film over all of my vision, to brilliant and vivid color that reflected the depth and richness of the world.

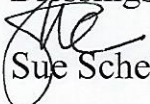
It makes me wonder and reflect on this week's gospel about the other areas of my life where a "dull, yellow cast" has shadowed my vision of God. I need to ask myself...Have I lost sight of Jesus because of attitudes, agendas, and personal-pettiness? Do I need a new frame of reference to respond more openly to Jesus?

In the gospel for this week, Bartimaeus, a blind man, calls out to Jesus "**Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.**" This guy knows who he is. He knows that he is physically blind. He also knows who Jesus is. In Bartimaeus' mind there is no doubt that Jesus is the Messiah. He knows that through Jesus he has the hope of being restored to the fullness of his human dignity. Those who try to stop him from encountering Christ are not aware of their own blindness and prejudices. They are not aware of who Jesus truly is as they believe they can dictate and direct who has access to the Lord.

Their judgements do not stop Bartimaeus from his pursuit of having a relationship with Jesus. When Jesus asks, "**What do you want me to do for you?**" Bartimaeus responds, "**Master, I want to see.**" I believe this should be the request from each of us. We need to be aware that at any given time we cannot fully see or comprehend God. We must make it a daily habit to pursue Jesus in such a way that we ask him to restore us (from our sins) to our full human dignity.

In doing so, we will hear the same call from Jesus, "**Go your way, your faith has saved you.**" We then can more fully and readily follow Christ on the way to eternal life.

Blessings!


Sue Schettler