



Jesus, Have Mercy

Mark 10:46–52

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.
The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”
“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”

October 25, 2015

Thought for the Week

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:7-9 • Hebrews 5: 1-6 • Mark 10: 46-52

I've always been fascinated with paleoanthropology. Thus I've always found articles about ancient human beings and their habits interesting reading. One characteristic I find most captivating is the ancient and modern tendency for humans to move; to travel from place to place around planet earth. Perhaps they move in order to find fresh sources of food, freedom and separation from other ethnic groups and to observe new unexplored lands. At any rate people from ancient times down to our own day have been on the move.

Unfortunately, one of the predominant causes for the movement of humans around the globe has been the effort to escape the fury of war and the attempt by one group to capture the land of another. The early history of Abraham, for instance, and his family in Jewish history is an example of geographic movement around the Fertile Crescent. He and his family left Ur in Chaldea to find better land and to escape the threats of surrounding tribes.

Even as we speak, people, mainly from Africa, Iraq and Syria are attempting to escape the fury of war in their own countries and are moving toward central Europe. The stories in the local news sources are simply horrifying: many people drown in an attempt to cross the Mediterranean; others starve for lack of food or water along the roads and railways. In North America, of course, we know of similar stories of people moving north from Mexico and Central America to escape violence of their home countries. In short, migration is one of the great tragedies of our time. It is happening, as it has so often in history, because people simply want to live in a way that befits the character of decent, peace-loving human beings. Sadly, this human drama has been going on from the earliest times of human history. People just want to see better times without needing to fear for their lives.

We have an example of such a human migration in our first reading in today's captioned scriptures. It is the story of the Jewish people who had been forced to migrate into Mesopotamia. We pick up the story in the prophecy of Jeremiah. After their long exile in Babylonia, Jeremiah predicts that the Jewish people, the remnant of Israel, will finally be able to return to their homeland. God will gather up the blind and the lame, mothers and children. Finally, they will find level roads, springs of water and land where no one need stumble and fall. In short, Jeremiah claims that this migration toward home is what any decent human deserves. Indeed, this is what any person deeply desires, to leave the land of lonesomeness and find a home where there is the assurance safety and peace.

Interestingly, the gospel of Mark for this same Sunday describes the situation of a blind man, Bartimaeus, who is

without a home. He is sitting at the side of a dusty road, begging a pittance from passersby. He wants nothing more than to be able to become part of the local community once again, but without sight he remains lost and alone. Jesus comes by and asks him what he wants. "Well, obviously," the man replies, "I would like to see again and go home." Jesus restores his sight and the man with newfound sight makes his way home.

There are lessons to be learned in these two stories of people seeking a way home. There are stories telling of people who are searching for nothing more than to find their way. We all know that there are lots of "lost" people in our world. For whatever reason, they do not have the vision or the sight to find their way back to peace and safety.

When you think about it, perhaps we are all a little lost, struggling to find our way home. Jesus, who, by the way, had no home, tells us that he is the way, the truth and the light. There is hope for us all if we choose to open our eyes to the light and go home.

Happy Birthday-Jim S. & Dorian T.(26),Karen (27)

Prayer for Peace - India

Gracious God, we give thanks for the rich blessings of life. Your generosity is beyond measure and we pray that we might also be generous in sharing your love with others.

Strengthen us in times of weakness and forgive us when our choices separate us from you and from each other. May our lives reflect your desire for all creation to be at peace.

God of compassion and peace, we pray for the people of India who have suffered for decades with overpopulation, extensive poverty, and ethnic discord. Please guide political, community and religious leaders who will work tirelessly for justice and peace. Deepen our own commitment to be the instruments of your justice and peace in our communities and in all nations.

In times when we feel we are unable to make a difference in the cause of peace, strengthen us with your spirit of hope. Help us realize the biggest steps toward peace in the world begin with your peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, and compassion toward others.

In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray, Amen

Stewardship Thought

*"And Jesus said to him,
'Go your way; your faith has made you well.'
And immediately he received his sight
and followed him on the way." (Mark 10:52)*

Faith, is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. But, if you focus on the positive, not the negative, focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common.