Deacon Tom Landry's Homily 10-24-21 "Believe"

"Take Courage...Jesus is calling You."
"Go Your Way...Your Faith has saved You."
These 2 lines from our Gospel Reading today are about a man named Bartimaeus. He may have been blind, but this is all about being a believer, becoming a Dynamic Disciple of Christ. The very first tenet of Discipleship is to BELIEVE. You have to have faith that Jesus is God and came into the world for your salvation.

Look at Bartimeaus. He is proclaiming exactly that reality. Bartimeaus cries out..."Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Certainly, Bartimeaus has the Belief that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah that has come from the lineage of King David. Where do you suppose Bartimaeus' faith came from? Why do you think Bartimeaus would cry out for Jesus when everyone around him is telling him to be silent? Bartimeaus did not cry out, "Heal me." He cried out, "Have pity on me." That is when Jesus called to Bartimaeus..."What do you want me to do for you?" "Master, I want to see." Jesus said "Go your way...your faith has saved you." Because he believed...he was saved and he followed Jesus on his way.

How about us today? Jesus is calling us. I think that the most important part of Discipleship is to believe. Being called and responding. His call this morning is..."What do you want me to do for you"?

Did you hear Jesus ask that question in last Sunday's Gospel? 2 of Jesus' disciples, James and John, wanted to be on the right and left side of Jesus. They were guilty of ego trips. They petitioned Jesus to…make me the best. That is not true of Bartimaeus. This blind man wanted to be like everyone else and just have his sight. This miracle is unique in the fact that there was no physical contact between Jesus and the Blind Man. The miracle became a reality because of Bartimaeus' faith alone. One another occasion Jesus gave sight to blind man by making mud and touching the man's eyes. He cured a woman's hemorrhage when she touched his cloak. The touch completed the miracles. But it was by Faith alone that Bartimaeus was cured. Having been cured by Jesus Bartimeaus followed him. Where was Jesus going? Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem where he would be arrested...suffer torture...be put to death...and rise on the 3rd day. Bartimeaus learned that to follow Jesus meant to follow him all the way to Calvary so he could rise with Him.

The same is true with all of us. To BELIEVE in Jesus as a Dynamic Disciple we must reflect on Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. We have been blind...then find the light...all throughout our lives. Our blindness is found in our pride... egotism...materialism...and selfishness. We call this sin. But when the light of Jesus' death and resurrection shines through, we become disciples.
And disciples are above all….Believers!