

Thursday, Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:46-52

REFLECTION

A blind man, sitting at the side of the road, cries out a most heartfelt prayer of petition to Jesus as he passes by: *'Son of David, have pity on me'*. In this blind man is someone who desperately wanted to connect with Jesus. The fact that many people from the crowd scolded him speaks of itself of how loud the blind man was in presenting his request. The reaction of the crowd also reveals a deeply eroded sense of compassion in society. Jesus does not hesitate to give a fitting recognition to him as a person. Isn't it sad that the people around Jesus scolded him and told him to be quiet? Did they think they needed to protect Jesus from an annoying beggar? Whatever their motives, these people could not stop the blind man's prayer. In response to their efforts to silence him, he shouted towards Jesus all the louder. He will allow no one to come between him and Jesus. He displays an outright perseverance in prayer against all odds. Jesus' response to the blind man's cry was very different to the response of those around him. Just as the gospel says, 'Jesus stopped'. The Lord always stops for us whenever we call to him. He has time for us when nobody else doesn't. He gives us full attention when we cry out to him in our need. Whereas the people around Jesus tried to silence the blind man, Jesus calls him over and addresses him in a very personal way, *'What do you want me to do for you?'* The Lord is always personally present to us, whenever we cry out to him in our need. The blind man's encounter with Jesus was truly life-changing for him. Whenever we come before the Lord in prayer and allow him to touch our lives, we too will begin to see him more clearly and we will be empowered to follow him more fully.