

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Ps 126:1-6
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52

Monday October 25

Ephesians 4:32--5:8
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday October 26

Ephesians 5:21-33
Ps 128:1-5
Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday October 27

Ephesians 6:1-9
Ps 145:10-14
Luke 13:22-30

Thursday October 28

Revelations 7:2-4,9-14
Ps 24:1b-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12a

Friday October 29

Wisdom 3:1-9
Romans 5:5-11 or 6:3-9
John 6:37-40

Saturday October 30

Philippians 1:18b-26
Ps 42:2,3,5
Luke 14:1,7-11

After Jesus touches our lives – answers a prayer, gives us a healing, provides a life-changing insight, or makes any other kind of difference – what do we do next? Our life has been changed by divine grace. Do we make the most of this new opportunity?

God never forces us to take a new direction or follow a certain path, not even if we've made a bargain with him, such as: "Lord, if you heal me, I will go to Mass every day."

Jesus says to us what he said to Bartimaeus, the man he healed in this Sunday's Gospel reading: "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Go where?

Sometimes his instructions are a little more informative than that. When he cures someone from sin, he adds: "Go and sin no more". Okay, but go where?

Every step we take is important. Where we go and what we do next makes a difference that ripples off into the future with ramifications (blessings and/or woes) that are impossible for us to predict. Jesus isn't down-playing the significance of this. Rather, what happens next is so important that he wants us to have full control over it.

Jesus told Bartimaeus "Go *your* way." And what did Bartimaeus do with that freedom? He "followed *him* on the way." He opted for the best possible direction. His life changed dramatically, not only because he had



been blind and now he had good eyesight, but because he wanted to learn from Jesus and become one of his followers.

How many times have we returned to an old familiar path after an encounter with Christ? If following him means taking a new direction, getting involved in a new ministry, or changing careers or friends, we too often settle back into old routines. Comfort zones are hard to leave. But following Jesus is a life-changing adventure if we're sincere about it.

Following Jesus and learning from him should be our top priority. Every encounter with Christ should change us – even at Mass when we reunite ourselves to him in the Eucharist.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Think of the last time Jesus responded to your need for help. What changed afterward?
2. How long did the change last?
3. Describe a time when you changed directions in your life because of an encounter with Christ. What did Jesus do for you?
4. How did you figure out which way to go afterward?