

see

(Mark 10: 46b-52)

Scripture:

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by, he began to call out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!" Many people scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man saying, "Take heart. Get up, he is calling you." He immediately threw aside his cloak, jumped up and went to Jesus.

Then Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Master, let me see again!" And Jesus said to him, "Go your way, your faith has made you well." And immediately he could see, and he followed Jesus along the road.

Meditation:

the red building

where i lived
burnt with the strength
of the sun

eighteen steps climbing down
from my house to the street below
living alone

everyday as i climbed down
an elderly voice
yelling out

bartimaeus blind one
remember

you have eighteen steps
to climb down
from your red house

be careful

and every day
as she said this
i desired so deeply within
to be able to see
what a red brick building
looks like

all my life
having lived in darkness
now being twenty-one
and alone
having to beg
 as an outcast

bringing myself
 to the bottom
 of the stairs
finding the street
 this early morning

on one level
i didn't want to have
 to wander out again
 to beg

all along the street
people greeting me
stumbling
 with my traveling bag
 with my begging bowl

how many years
would i have to live like this?
i want to see
arriving at my place
 it was already hot
being greeted
by the vendors
veronica handing me
 some food

finishing the fruit
hearing
 in the distance
 a noisy crowd approaching
my sense of hearing
was acute
asking veronica
 what was happening
 what could she see
she yelled back
that it
was this journeying preacher

with a large group of followers
something burnt inside

jesus
is finally passing by
while i am here

didn't hesitate for a moment
jesus i yelled
i'm over here
i need your help
i could hear
some vendors coming closer

bartimaeus
be quiet
it is jesus
who is coming
don't bother him
be quiet

jesus
stopped nearby
my voice
entered into him
the pain the suffering
in my voice moved him

jesus
was in the middle
of the street
asking peter
if he knew
where that voice
came from
as jesus was saying this
once again
the air was shaken
i yelled
jesus
help me
i need you

jesus
asking peter
if he could find

that person
peter approaching me
helping me come close
to jesus

i knew
i was now in front of him
jesus
 putting his hand
 on my shoulder
my name is jesus
 i heard your cry
 what is your name?

jesus
 my name is bartimaeus
 can you help me?
all my life
i have been blind
one day
i would like
to leave my house
 my red brick building
i would like to see
what red looks like
i stumble around
in darkness all day
i would like to see

jesus
 putting his hand
 on my head
his strong hand
bore down on my head
bright light flowing
within
 jesus
 i would like to see
he then placed
his hands against my eyes
feeling heat pressure
 jesus
 i want to see
feeling deep emotions
having suffered for so long

bartimaeus

i pray for you

abba one greater
let your light flow
into my brother's darkness
it is hard to see
even when we think
we see

let him

see with his eyes
with his heart
so he can see
what this life
is about
to see how to be happy
not how the blind leaders
tell us

may he see

that in being at the bottom
there also is life
to see
that climbing down
the steps
also leads to life

bartimaeus

be healed

i opened my eyes

i looked

into the face

of jesus

i looked into his eyes

he was smiling

stunned

shaken

slowly walking back

along the same street

where i journeyed

every day

climbing up the stairs

with jesus

reaching

where i had lived
for so many years
 in darkness
seeing my red brick building
jesus saying
 now bartimaeus
 let us walk down
 these stairs
 don't forget
 that now
 that you can see
 with your eyes
 don't forget
 to walk down
 these eighteen steps
 to now help
 the widows the diseased
 at the bottom
 of the stairs
 may you always
 also see
 where yahweh
 especially dwells below