



The Outrageous Faith of Bartimaeus;

Mark 10:46-52

By Mary Ann Collett

The Gospel of Mark tells a story of a blind man who used his **voice** to get back his **vision**. Many of us have lost our vision and have become fearful and hopeless in all we've experienced in our lives in the past Year 2020.

But there is hope to be found in this New Year of 2021 ... we need to use our voices to proclaim that **Jesus Christ is Lord!** If we don't have hope...we can't cope! We all need to hope and believe we can change, by using our **faith** and **trust** in **Jesus**. He can change any situation that we find ourselves in.

One way to begin is by choosing: two ways to live our lives either by **fear** or **faith!**

Fear and Faith
cannot exist in
the same place
at the same time.
Choose One.

Let your **faith** be bigger than your **fear** — *"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"* (Hebrews 13:6).

Scripture also, tells us, *"Fear of others becomes a snare, but the one who trusts in the Lord is safe"* (Proverbs 29-25).

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present **your requests to God**. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in **Christ Jesus**” (Philippians 4:6-7).

While reflecting on, **Mark 10:46-52**: They reached Jericho; and as he left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to **shout** and to say, **‘Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me’**. And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, **but he only shouted all the louder, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’** Jesus stopped and said, **‘Call him here.’** So, they called the blind man. **‘Courage,’** they said, **‘get up; he is calling you.’** So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, **‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’** the blind man said to him **‘Master, let me see again.’** Jesus said to him, **‘Go; your faith has saved you.’** And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

So, Bartimaeus who is without vision, uses what he has . . . **his voice**. He was not **fearful!** He had to yell to get **Jesus’** attention. It was against custom to shout at a rabbi, but he didn’t let a custom keep him from getting healing from **Jesus**. **He used his faith**. The more people that told him to be quiet, the louder he shouted all the more. And he **knew** who **Jesus** was—he called him the **Son of David**. That tells us that he acknowledged **Jesus** as the Messiah. And when he finally gets **Jesus’s** attention...**Bartimaeus** is summoned, and he eagerly leaps to his feet (responding to Jesus’ Call). And he drops his cloak. As to say, Here I am Lord, do with me as you will! I come to you letting go of everything (the cloak...represents letting go of his whole being) and he asks for mercy and healing of his sight!

May our hearts also cry out to Him, gladly and confidently, **“Son of David, Jesus, have pity on us!”** We can only know **Christ** truly by the use of our **faith and His unconditional Love**.



Mary Ann Collett is the proud mother of 3 married daughters and 7 grandchildren. She is an inspiring and dynamic Catholic Lay Evangelist; whose gift is to intertwine Scripture and personal stories. Mary Ann Collett, MSW, MA, CLEM, LLC, is a *Bereavement Counselor, Life Coach, Pastoral Care, Spiritual Director, Support Groups, Speaker for Retreats and Workshops*. She is in private practice in Red Bank. Mary Ann has been in the Healing Ministry for over 36 years. She is the co-founder of the thriving ministry Catholic Women of Zion celebrating their 31st year in 2020. She has traveled nationally and internationally to spread the message of the Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.