

## Believing is seeing

I have a smoothie for breakfast every day – it saves time, and it's healthy. It's also very green in colour. In order to get out all the nutrients, I put water in the beaker, shake it around, and leave it for 10 minutes while I brush my teeth. One time, I wasn't thinking properly, and I put green washing up liquid in to let it soak. However, I forgot. Ten minutes later, I opened the lid, took a big gulp, and spat it out quickly. I drank soap, and it left an awful taste in my mouth all day! I *\*believed\** this was my green smoothie, because I *\*saw\** the liquid was the same green colour.

Some people *\*only\** 'believe what they can see'. When we *\*see\** bad things like war, political disagreements, family breakdowns, relationship problems, financial difficulties, health challenges, and misunderstanding with friends, etc, we may be tempted to *\*believe\** that the bad news is *\*all\** to see. This can lead to cynicism, depression, anger, anxiety, and feeling overwhelmed.

Seeing is not believing. **Believing is seeing.** Believing in Jesus helps us *\*see\** how to deal with all the challenges we face. There are 7 ways God can help you *\*see\** more clearly today.

**Mercy** – Mk. 10:47: "When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' Believe in God's **mercy**. There is nothing God can't and won't forgive. Forgiveness of sins comes only through Jesus' blood. Call for **mercy**, especially in the sacrament of reconciliation – don't literally shout though!

**Persist** – Mk. 10:48: "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.'"

**Persist** in prayer. Sometimes God gives your prayers a green light: go.

Sometimes a red light: it's not good for you. Sometimes a yellow light: **persist**.

**Saints** – Mk. 10:49: "Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.'" Sometimes Jesus calls directly. Sometimes he asks his disciples to call on his behalf. Ask

**saints** to pray for you and a particular intention: e.g., St Anthony to find something, Blessed Virgin Mary to untie knots, St. Joseph to find a home, St. Maximilian Kolbe to overcome an addiction. Believe and see the intercession of the **saints**.

**Surrender** – Mk 10:49-50: “‘Courage,’ they said ‘get up; he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus.” Bartimaeus’s cloak was a symbol of his old life. We can all carry an old cloak: hurt, resentment, unforgiveness, greed, pride, lust, laziness. You can be **free** of those burdens. What do you need to throw off? **Surrender** your old way of life to God in the offertory.

**Desire** – Mk 10:51: “Jesus spoke, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’ the blind man said to him ‘Master, let me see again.’” Jesus knew what Bartimaeus wanted. He asked because he wanted Bartimaeus to express his deepest **desire**. Jesus knows what you want. He wants you to express what you really desire. Isaiah says “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” When you pray, express to God what you really **desire** (for your work, children, career, relationships, knowledge of forgiveness, salvation, etc).

**Saved** – Mk 10:52: “Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has saved you.’” Bartimaeus could point to a date and time of ‘being saved’. Faith is like going through the channel tunnel to France. Sometimes you notice that you’ve arrived in France only after a period of time. Sometimes you know straight away. Either way, you know you’ve arrived in France at some point. Faith is similar. Can you remember a point of time of ‘**being saved**’ by faith? Faith **saves** you.

**Follow** – Mk 10:52: “And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.” **Following** Jesus means 3 things.

1. Be *\*with\** him - pray every day, and be aware he is with you

2. Be *\*like\** him – think, speak, and act in his *\*spirit\** of love, patience, compassion
3. Do as he would do - forgive, show kindness, pray for others, sacrifice yourself for others

Brothers and sisters, people need to know there is more than what they see on the news, on our streets, from our politicians, in our relationships, in our hearts. People need to '**believe to see**'.

As they believe in God, through Jesus, a new life can open for them. A life of **forgiveness, persistence**, new friends (**saints**), freedom (**surrender**), satisfaction of **desire, salvation**, and the adventure in **following** Jesus.

Invite your family, friends at work, school, and strangers, to come and *\*see\**: Sunday Mass, Christmas carols (Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 4 pm), Christmas Masses, alpha. Believing is seeing.

## **Prayer**

*Picture Jesus looking at you lovingly as you are.*

Jesus, I cry out to you for **mercy** and forgiveness of my sins.

Help me to **persist** in prayer.

Give me the help of your **saints**.

I **surrender** my old way/s of life.

Jesus, in my life, my work, in my relationships, I really **desire** ....

Help me *\*know\** my faith has **saved** me.

Help me to **follow** you: to be with you, be like you, to do as you do.

... so that others may believe and see too.

In your holy name, amen!