

Jesus speaks a third time of His upcoming passion. In the first **it is necessary the Christ suffer many things, be rejected**. In the second, **the Christ is betrayed, killed**. Now today in the third, **the things foretold by the prophets concerning the Son of Man** (title of the Christ) **will be accomplished**. Accomplished, the same word from the cross, we translate it **-It is finished**. Means perfected, completed. And the disciples are mostly unsure, they do not see it. This is His holy mission and purpose. His passion. Because of you, for you. It is necessary for our salvation, fulfills the promises of God recorded by the prophets. There is no other way.

And then we encounter the blind beggar. This blind man believed the Word he had heard about Jesus. He sees better than the disciples. Sometimes those who can see -are blind; those who are blind -can see. That's today's Gospel. A poor blind beggar sees far greater than others, sees the Christ, the truth of Jesus, understands who He is, looks to Him with faith.

This blind beggar -a wonder example for you, of faith. How often we're blind to see things correctly. We think we're ok, in good shape; don't see our selfish pride; see others far worse, see our sin no so bad -slip-ups, harmless mistakes, well-intended. Forgive us Lord -often blind to see our wretchedness.

This blind beggar -a wonder example for you, of faith. The crowd, world, culture would have him, you just shut-up. Be silent. However, faith endures, stubborn, persistent. The Holy Spirit working faith in you that won't let anything get in the way of life in Jesus. Faith doesn't care what people think or what they will say, because it seeks a gift infinitely greater than worldly approval and worldly friends, and respect of man. Faith is not ashamed, will not be silenced. You're often in places, in settings, where faith should not be silent. Take a stand for truth. Do not yield to the ungodly. Confess your Lord, as a blind man cries out even more loudly.

This blind beggar -a wonder example for you, of faith. He prays, **Kyrie eleison, Lord, have mercy**. And his prayer is granted. This beggars prayer, look what it says, **Jesus stopped**. No other prayer in Scripture so grabs, our Lord's attention and work than this. This is our prayer throughout the liturgy, for 2000 years, why many today discard this I have no idea, maybe they have a better idea.

But this prayer of beggars looking for help and gifts as the Lord comes near. **Lord have mercy**. And not just a prayer for when you're in church but every day. When you see someone in trouble or acting foolishly, pray for them simply by saying, **Lord, have mercy**. When you yourself in trouble or need, whatever the issue, whatever is upon you, pray, **Lord, have mercy on me**. Even when everything is great, in joys, good health, after your prayers of

thanksgiving, still pray **Lord, have mercy on me** lest you fall into complacency, laziness, or pride.

Let this prayer be often upon your lips, in your heart. **Lord, have mercy.** His mercy is everything for you. And your Lord pours out His works to you in this prayer, every, single, time.

Jesus asked, **what do you want me to do for you?** How often we think just for the moment –what we want, how we feel, what we think we deserve. So when we pray earnestly -and our loved ones or you are not healed- that's never God not caring or not enough faith! The healing of our bodies whether by the miracle of medicine or the direct intervention of God will not last. Why some are healed, given longer lives and others not? God know. But Scripture points us always to what lies to the eternal -prepared for us in Christ, a faith that trust His good and gracious will now. For health or help or whatever.

Jesus asks, **What do you want me to do for you?** So you yearned for a response to your cry, for your various petitions to God. To have what you cry for, the healing, the cure, the help, the fix, the answer you need. God knows what you need even before you ask Him; knows your needs better than you. God says “no” to what we ask for because He wants to teach us patience or make room for greater gifts and draw us closer to Him. Sometimes He knows what we're asking for will harm us, not help others, endanger our salvation.

What do you want me to do for you? You are here because our Lord answers your plea, **Lord have mercy.** He gives mercy through the gifts He gives to you in this place: forgiveness, healing in His Word and Sacraments.

And your prayer for compassion, help, a cure, is given; beyond ways you can begin to fathom, it is yours. You can trust this. Take God at His Word, He has bound Himself to you. That's not to say everything will happen, everything will go for you, you'll have everything you want -now. But all according to His good and gracious will, all you ever need, it's delivered to you now and for eternity. And your 'wants' if not given to you now, will be given to you in heaven. Your faith, that is -the gift of God from His Word and Sacrament- **your faith has made you well**, the word there **made you well** is **saved you**. Christ saved you.

What do you want Me to do for you? Do not be blind to see, our Lord answers your cry, His answered far better than anything you could ever dream. You may not understand or see it now; ask and it will be done for you. Jesus stops for you, mercy in abundance for dear beggars like you. Your cries, for your Lord to act in your life, always answered with His gifts, every, single, time. **Lord have mercy on us.**