

Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ

October 27, 2024

Old Testament Reading; Job 42: 1-6, 10-17

Responsive Reading: Psalm 34: 1-8

Epistle Reading; Hebrews 7: 23-28

Gospel Reading: Mark 10: 46-52

**Sermon:**

**And Followed Jesus on the Road**

By Rev. Jim Gardner

Summary: Now, that our eyes the Lord, how will we bless the Lord at all times “on the road”.

*You asked, “Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?”  
Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand. Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak.*

Job bit off more than he could chew when he demanded an audience with God and got it. On the other hand, blind Bartimaeus knew exactly what he was doing when he went

against popular opinion by calling out Jesus on His route to Jerusalem. Bartimaeus knew that it was imperative to get the attention of Jesus if he ever wanted to see. Ironically, this was not only his best chance to be healed by the great physician, but it was also his last chance. Jesus was on His way to His own crucifixion and would never pass this way (physically) again.

Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near". Bartimaeus did exactly this and maybe we should take the hint. But aw, that is another sermon.

In our Psalm lesson for today David is boasting on the Lord and not himself. David is so indebted to the Lord that he could not sufficiently praise God if he were to praise Him 24/7. David said, "This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles". He goes on to say that the "angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them." God delivers those who fear Him of all the things in life that man has to fear.

The implication of this is that there is no fear that God can not relieve. This peace that David experienced is not for him alone but is for anyone that believes in God. Are we afraid of the unknown? God's got that. Are we afraid of dying? God conquered death. Are we afraid of being unforgiven or standing in judgment? God, in the flesh of Jesus repeatedly said, "Your

sins are forgiven. Go in Peace.” This is real! This is God in our lives! This is the God that WILL NOT let us go!

This God that WILL NOT let us go! Really? Is there a contradiction to this in the story of Job? In the end of that reading all the fortunes of Job are restored two-fold. Two-fold, but how does that take into consideration the fact that Job has still lost ten children? This question will always haunt us but maybe there is sort of, even if a little abstract possibility.

In Job 1:1 God refers to Job as being blameless. Then, in what seems to be a very unlikely scenario God allows Satan to test Job's loyalty. Then three well meaning “friends” rub salt into Job's wounds by accusing Job of being the cause of his misfortune and calls Job a liar for not admitting to what he never did in the first place. Job demands an audience with God and God grants Job's request along with the most severe tongue lashing ever found in the Bible. God is a bit peeved at the audacity of a mere man challenging God but even more upset with the friends, in essence, lying about God and acting the part of God by judging Job. Job is told that the friends would never be forgiven unless Job prayed for them. Job prayed for them in an act that would never be repeated until done from the cross.

Now back to the ten children who died. Job now knew God and what God stood for and now Job was an honorary member of heaven. Job knew that he now had twenty children. Ten with

him and ten with him in the heaven he was headed for. Job could, like David, praise God 24/7 and then some. David sang the praises of God in the Psalms, and the circumstances and love of Job praised God with every breath as he lived a hundred and forty more years and saw his grandchildren for four generations. Job said that “I have heard of you by the hearing of my ear, but now my eye sees you.” This would not be his physical eyes but rather the eyes of his heart.

The peace that David felt and professed in the Psalms and the peace Job felt as he watched four generations of descendants is not just one felt by these ancient prophets. But this is the same one shared by Bartimaeus and all of us who have seen with the eye and called upon the Lord. God HEARS us. Those of us who know God and know that God hears us want to share God with our immediate world. We have a High Priest in Jesus Christ who walks hand in hand with us while He simultaneously sits beside God the Father and intercedes for us. We can't lose.

With this kind of joy of life, how can we keep it to ourselves. Bartimaeus followed Jesus on the road, and that is what we need to do also. Not on Twitter or Face Book or on YouTube but right here where we are. Right here on this road that leads to our own driveways. We have got to share it. To quote my favorite Theologian/Philosopher, Winnie the Pooh, “It's not

much for one, but two can stick together says Pooh. That's how it is says Pooh."

And that is how it is says Jim and Jackie and Don and every preacher and every Christian who has not only heard with the ear but has seen with the eye and felt with the heart. Let us follow Jesus on the road. Hallelujah and Amen!