



Wednesday Prayer

22nd Sunday after Pentecost – Healing, and Seeing All

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” Mark 10:46-49

Here we’re told of blind Bartimaeus sitting by the roadside begging for Jesus to heal him as others “sternly ordered him to be quiet.” Bartimaeus embodies those in society who are socially excluded, ignored, and quieted by many. But we know, this is just who Jesus sought out.

Last week I attended Breaking Free’s annual candlelight vigil to honor those who have lost their lives due to some aspect of being “in the life”. A woman killed by her trafficker after being accused of keeping \$40, others who died by suicide or a drug overdose because they couldn’t see a way out, and many more. We lined up to read their names aloud, to place a rose and a candle in their honor, and to hear poetry written by some of these cherished souls.

“This fourth candle we light for our love. We light this candle that your light will always shine. As we share this night of remembrance with our family and friends, our Sisters of Survival.”

Bartimaeus asks Jesus, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus heals Bartimaeus and he immediately joins Jesus along the road. Upon reading this passage, my thoughts go to the crowd, those who ordered Bartimaeus to be quiet, those who didn’t want to see him or hear him. If I place myself in the crowd, I feel I should be the one pleading, “My teacher, let me see again.” What do I need to do to see and tend to the human suffering all around me?

I was thanked by a number of people for being with them at the candlelight vigil, people who didn’t know me and I didn’t know them. I shared that I was honored to be invited, to share this time of remembrance with them.

“We cherish the special place in our hearts that will always be reserved for you. And as this candle’s flame dances, we know you are dancing like a butterfly in the air, singing in the sunshine, playing tag in the wind, wild and free. We love you. We remember you.”

God of mercy, let us hear your word as a call to see again. Let us see those around us who have been quieted and come together for healing. Amen.

Four Candles poem author unknown. To learn more about Breaking Free or to support their work, visit breakingfree.net.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director & co-writer of our new [Safe and Healthy Relationships Youth Guide](#).