

A) INTRODUCTION

**Kathleen Chambers Home:** Lady who was deaf-blind; spelt the words on palm of her hand

**Statue in Lourdes of cure of blind man:** the greater miracle is to have the gift of faith restored

**In Bartimaeus, both images come together:** his physical cure is also a journey of faith.

a) shouts out "Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me." - a prayer, a lamentation, an appeal for help;

he persists, he is not put off by others;

b) then he jumps up and approaches Jesus - he is putting his trust and confidence in this man;

c) At Jesus question, 'What do you want me to do for you?' he is quite specific: 'Master, let me see again.'

d) finally, after he is cured he follows Jesus along the road - in other words he becomes a new disciple.

B) LORD THAT I MAY SEE MY LIMITATIONS

The blind man's prayer, LORD, THAT I MAY SEE, is most powerful

We can use it for ourselves in so many different ways

In our understanding and acceptance of ourselves

We talk about having blind spots

My own sinfulness and shortcomings

LORD, THAT I MAY SEE MORE AND MORE CLEARLY HOW I OFFEND YOU, so that I may allow your forgiveness and grace to heal me.

D) LORD THAT I MAY SEE MY GOOD QUALITIES, GIFTS AND TALENTS

We may be acutely aware of our shortcomings

We may fail to see how much we are loved and valued by God and by other people

LORD, THAT I MAY SEE myself as you see me

Help me to recognise that I am loved and loveable; that you love me with a love which is infinite, unchanging and unconditional;

that nothing I can do will ever stop you loving me; and that in your plans I have a valuable, special and unique role to play.

E) LORD THAT I MAY SEE OTHERS AS YOU SEE THEM

I may be so tied up with my own affairs, my own needs, my own desires, that I fail to see the needs and values of other people as important

Or I may tend to see in others nothing but failure and weakness

I may need to pray for a new vision of other people, an ability to recognise their qualities, their efforts and their struggles, and to have compassion for them

LORD, THAT I MAY SEE others as you see them; that I may recognise them as brothers and sisters, and give them the love and respect which is their due.

F) LORD THAT I MAY SEE YOUR PRESENCE IN THE WORLD AROUND ME

We may need help to see more clearly and to judge more wisely the things of this world

We are bombarded by all kinds of philosophies and value systems which are part and parcel of our culture, and adopt them uncritically

LORD, THAT I MAY SEE more clearly the goodness and beauty of this world

Help me to see the values of the Gospel wherever they are reflected in society, in politics, in the sciences and arts, in human endeavour and achievement.

Give me the wisdom to discern and reject whatever is contrary to the Gospel.

If Jesus were to ask you or me that question, what would we want to say in reply?

THEN JESUS SPOKE, "WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?"

LORD, THAT I MAY SEE...