

Read the passage slowly, savouring the words and beginning to imagine the scene. Read it twice if that helps you to visualize it.

Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus 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.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Imaginative Contemplation

Jesus is leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd. Can you see the scene? It doesn't matter what Jericho really looked like then or now -- just imagine Jesus and the crowd as he reaches the outskirts of a town.

What is the landscape like? Are there many buildings around, or is it just about the countryside?

What is the day like? Is it warm? Sunny? Cloudy? Cool? Is there a breeze that you can feel on your skin? What can you hear? The crowds? Are there children playing? Or animals you can hear. What can you smell? Maybe there is a market with food cooking, maybe you can smell the animals.

See all the people -- how large of a crowd is it? What do they look like? Do you recognise anyone. Place yourself there, in the scene.

See Jesus. What does he look like to you? Notice everything you can about him -- is his skin darker or lighter? Are his clothes like biblical times or more contemporary? Notice how he interacts with his disciples and the crowds. What kind of expression does he have on his face?

Who are you in the scene? You might be in the crowd, one of Jesus' disciples, or even the blind beggar.

A cry rings out -- the beggar calling to Jesus for mercy. How does this call for assistance touch you?

The crowd tries to quiet the beggar, but Jesus asks that the beggar be brought to him.

Jesus says, "What do you want me to do for you?" Listen to the beggar's request for sight. What is it like for you as Jesus gives the gift of sight?

Imagine Jesus looks at you and calls your name, he says to you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Let this question sink in, and give your response to Jesus from your heart. Listen to his response and talk with him for a moment, as with a friend.

And when you are ready, close with a favourite prayer.