

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you."

MARK 10:49



SHUTTERSTOCK

Shout with Joy

After the previous Sunday's focus on suffering, today's readings depict excitement. Refugees are coming home. They had been locked away and now they are free. These were vulnerable people that others did not value. Now they are going home. They have been gathered in God's embrace. Who wouldn't rejoice?

The Gospel tells of one man who is blind and begging. However, his blindness did not prevent him

FOR *Reflection*

- * *What is your attitude toward those who do not fit into society's structures? Can you be the face of Jesus for them?*
- * *How have you been blessed by God's gathering-in of those who have suffered?*

from seeing. He seems to have known who Jesus was and that Jesus could help him. And so, he cries out, "Have pity on me" (Mark 10:47). This man was begging outside of the city. Because of his blindness, he was shunned and rendered unemployable. All that was left for him was to beg—and beg he did. Not for money, but for sight. Jesus very clearly tells him that his faith saved him. Only then was the man healed. He had believed that Jesus has the power of new life. Like the people in the first reading, he was given a chance for a new life. No longer was he an outcast; he could now join the community. No longer was he confined to begging. He could now flourish in life.

These are not merely awe-inspiring stories. As disciples we have been called to continue Jesus' ministry in our lives—to embrace those who are lost and help them find the warmth and security of home. We are called to help those struggling with life's hardships to see the compassion of Jesus.

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