



Bringing Home the Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
October 24, 2021

Boldly Believe!

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

It rarely does any good to follow the crowd. Most people follow the path of least resistance, just floating along. Jesus said the path to heaven is narrow and few follow it. Dare to believe in eternal truths, in Jesus, and swim against the current.

Just look at what happened to blind Bartimaeus. He wanted the impossible, to be healed by Jesus, but he was at a big disadvantage. He couldn't see Jesus in order to find him. So, what did he do? He started by using his only strength—his loud voice. He couldn't run after Jesus but could only sit and call out.

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 31:7–9

I will lead them to streams of water, / on a level road, without stumbling.

Hebrews 5:1–6

Every high priest is taken from among men...He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness.

Mark 10:46–52

[Bartimaeus] threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.... "Master, I want to see."

Lesson one: Use whatever talent you have to reach Jesus. Don't focus on what you lack but on what you have.

The crowd told him to be quiet and polite, not upsetting the moment. Bartimaeus "kept calling out all the more" (Mark 10:48). Lesson two: Ignore the crowd if they keep you from Jesus and your dreams.

Jesus hears his cry and calls for Bartimaeus, who springs up with a newfound joy because Jesus reached out to him. He stumbles toward him, directed by the crowd. Lesson three: Go to Jesus with your weakness! It doesn't bother him. It attracts him.

Jesus asks what he wants, and blind Bartimaeus boldly asks for the impossible: to see. Impossible, unless he believed Jesus was in fact the Son of David, the Messiah, the miracle worker. Jesus gives him exactly what his faith merited. Lesson four: Boldly believe and pursue the impossible. Jesus wants to give it to you! +

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A Word from Pope Francis

In the biblical tradition, the Son of Man is the one who receives from God "dominion, glory, and kingship" (Daniel 7:14). Jesus fills this image with new meaning. He shows us that he enjoys dominion because he is a servant, glory because he is capable of abasement, kingship because he is fully prepared to lay down his life.

Homily, October 18, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What do you need Jesus to fill?
- Are you the answer to how Jesus wants to fill someone's need?

A Tough Language

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

I've been a student of the Spanish language for many years, and I've bitten my tongue (literally) more times than I can count trying to say tongue-twisting words and phrases. It's tough to learn a new language. Think back to when you studied a language that was new to you in high school or college. Or maybe you took a crash course in Italian in anticipation of a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Rome. Or it could be that in the world of international business and your travel for work, you had to learn words in Chinese or Korean.

Nouns verbs, pronouns, conjugations, and declensions are all mind-expanding, headache-inducing, and not at all easy to remember. Plus, it's tough trying to get your mouth coordinated for the pronunciation of consonants and vowels you never heard of and tuning your ears to sounds that are unfamiliar and indecipherable. While learning a new language can be challenging, the process can be made a bit easier—or should I say, more palatable—with help.

Like learning a new language, learning to pray can be tough! It can be very much like taking Spanish 101. I'm not talking about learning Aramaic, the language Jesus likely spoke, or even speaking in tongues. I'm talking about learning to converse freely and familiarly with our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came from heaven, returned there, and who desperately wants us to end up there one day.



The good news is many of the tools that are helpful in learning languages are transferable. They can also be helpful in building a prayer life. For example, repeating words over and over and committing them to memory creates a structure to build on when learning other new words. Repetition teaches the muscles in your mouth and face new patterns of movement and your ears new sounds.

A mentor can encourage, correct, model conversation and proper pronunciation, and teach dialogue. And help you laugh at yourself. Have a sense of humor, be willing to embarrass yourself, and don't take yourself too seriously.

Time—maybe months and years—is required. Some courses promise proficiency in weeks. Impossible! Only time, and lots of it, can get mind and mouth in sync so that you can one day achieve fluency. So much can get lost in translation.

“In the beginning was the Word,” says the Scriptures (John 1:1). At Christmas we will celebrate the day when God in Christ Jesus came to earth. He then learned to speak human words so we might learn to speak heavenly words and someday fully comprehend the Word that was spoken at the beginning of time. To learn the language of heaven, take the Gospels seriously. Repeating Jesus' words expands our minds and hearts. Find a mentor, someone well-versed in prayer, and take time—lots of it—to practice. Who wants to get to heaven and find out they don't speak the language? It's time to learn a second language! +

A prayer mentor might be just the ticket for you.

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful you came to heal the brokenhearted.

Help me to trust in you when I am in trouble.

From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 25–30

Monday, Weekday:
Rom 8:12–17 / Lk 13:10–17


Tuesday, Weekday:
Rom 8:18–25 / Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday, Weekday:
Rom 8:26–30 / Lk 13:22–30

Thursday, Sts. Simon and Jude:
Eph 2:19–22 / Lk 6:12–16

Friday, Weekday:
Rom 9:1–5 / Lk 14:1–6

Saturday, Weekday:
Rom 11:1–2a, 11–12, 25–29 / Lk 14:1, 7–11

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