



The Path to Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

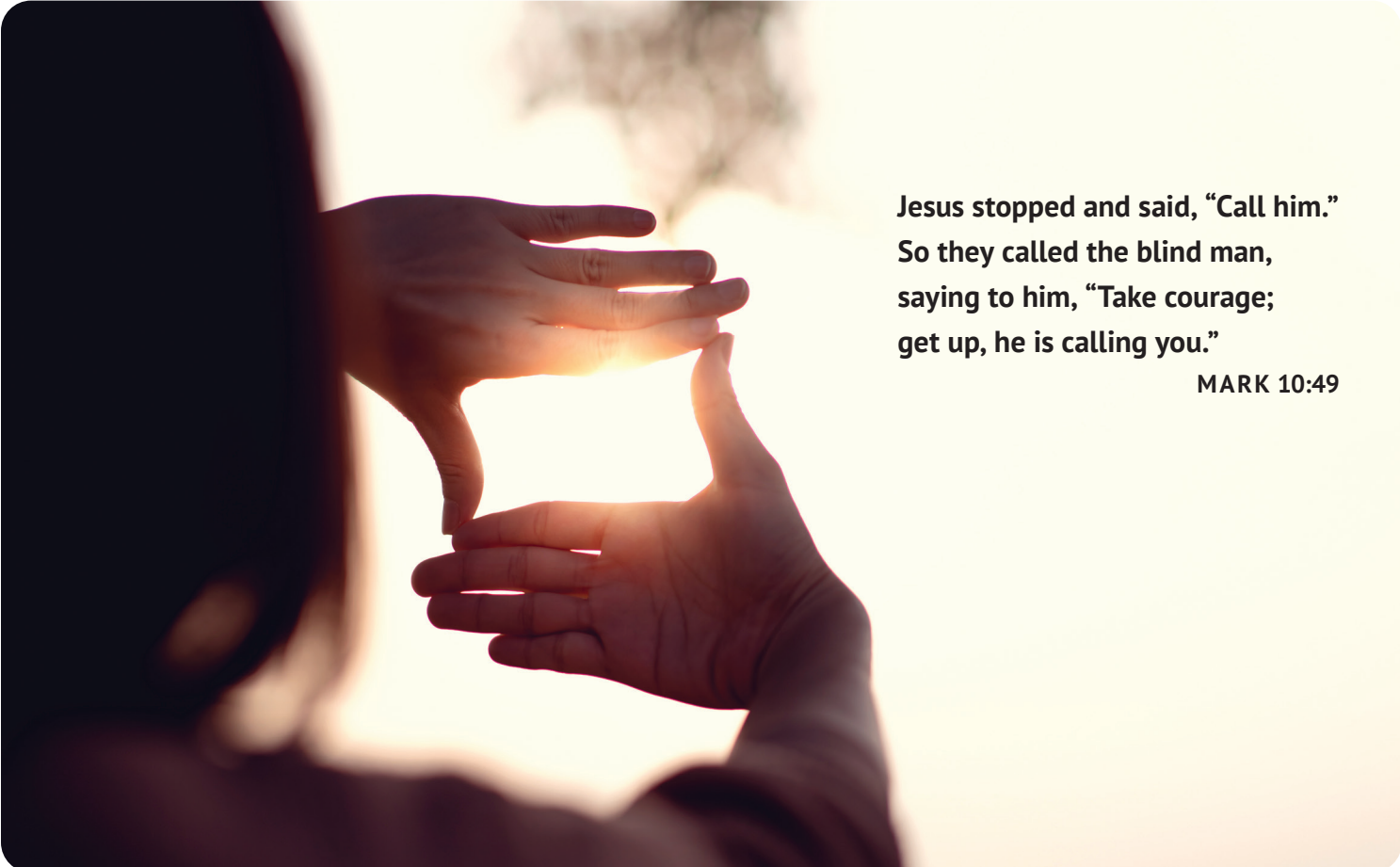
The story of blind Bartimaeus is an illustration of how we come to be people of faith. Like Bartimaeus, we may find ourselves helpless and on the side of life's road as we watch the world go by. And like him, we too then turn to God for help. Just as Jesus called Bartimaeus, we may sense that God is calling us to trust and surrender to his vision of life for us. Throwing aside the cloak that he would use to gather alms by the roadside, Bartimaeus comes to Jesus. That simple action displays his willingness to leave his old way of life behind in order to follow Jesus.

This is how we come to faith—we are given a glimpse of life from God's perspective and must trust

enough to cooperate with whatever God may bring our way. Such pivotal moments in life may come with the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or the loss of a job, when we need to trust that there is more to life in what lies ahead. Or it may come in those times when we need to learn how to cope with a lifelong illness, a failed dream, or growing old. It's all about how we come to faith—by trusting that God will bring us to new life, even though we may be blind to the ways he will bring it about. ●

Reflect

Have you ever experienced a hard ending that turned into a good beginning?

A photograph showing two hands reaching towards each other against a bright, hazy sunset background. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or support each other, symbolizing faith, hope, or divine assistance.

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

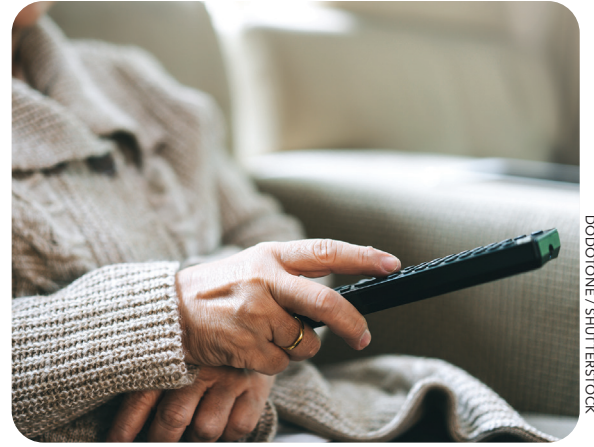
MARK 10:49

Dear Padre,

I am an eighty-year-old with painful knee replacements. Am I allowed to remain seated during Mass? Also, at what age am I free to watch a televised Mass at home instead of going to Mass?

Your health condition permits you to remain seated while others in the congregation kneel or stand. Of primary importance is your valued presence, and your full, active participation with fellow members of your Catholic faith community. At Mass, “the faithful form a holy people...so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him...” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 95).

However, if someone is incapable of attending Mass, then the obligation is abrogated, regardless of age. The Church allows a televised Mass primarily for people who are homebound, in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. “The televised Mass is never a substitute for the Church’s pastoral care for the sick in the form of visits by parish ministers who share the Scriptures and bring Communion, nor is it ever a substitute for the Sunday Mass celebrated within a parish faith community each week” (*Guidelines for Televising the Liturgy*, USCCB, 2014). If you are unable to be present at Mass, you have an opportunity to identify with a worshiping community, hear the word of God, be moved to expressions of praise and thanksgiving, and unite with Christ in spiritual communion. ●



DODOTONE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 28	October 29	October 30	October 31	November 1	November 2	November 3
<i>Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>All Saints</i>	<i>Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)</i>	<i>Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Eph 2:19–22 Lk 6:12–16	Eph 5:21–33 Lk 13:18–21	Eph 6:1–9 Lk 13:22–30	Eph 6:10–20 Lk 13:31–35	Rv 7:2–4, 9–14 1 Jn 3:1–3 Mt 5:1–12a	Wis 3:1–9 Rom 6:3–9 Jn 6:37–40	Dt 6:2–6 Heb 7:23–28 Mk 12:28b–34



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus hears [Bartimaeus’] plea. When he goes to him... he takes time to listen. This is the first step in helping the journey of faith: listening. It is the apostolate of the ear.... For Jesus, the cry of those pleading for help is not a nuisance but a challenge. How important it is for us to listen to life!

HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 28, 2018