

ICCH

International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

St. Michael's Church, Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings: [Jer 31:7-9](#) | [Heb 5:1-6](#) | [Mk 10:46-52](#)

[Welcome Father Peter](#)

October 25, 2015 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Son of David, have pity on me."



In today's Gospel story, the blind beggar Bartimaeus is desperate to get to the feet of Jesus. He shouts out, is rebuked and told to be quiet. But he shouts all the more. Jesus stops and asks him what he wants.

Throwing off his cloak, he springs up and comes to Jesus. At the time of Jesus, a cloak represented security for a blind man. Blind people were considered to be cursed by God. Their only protection against the elements was their cloak. The blind man dropped his cloak. In doing so, he dropped all the security he had ever known to follow the one named Jesus.

As Christians today, why do we have 'security blankets'? Part of the reason is that we find it hard to admit and face our hidden fears. There are moments when I reach for my 'security blanket' to provide protection from what I consider to be a cruel world that does not seem to understand. This is the response of someone who has not let go and accepted that they need to be 'saved'. A basic truth of the Gospel is that if one does not feel in need of salvation, it is impossible to receive that gift from Jesus. If everything is fine and comfortable for us, then Jesus has no way of reaching us.

What an example Bartimaeus can be to us in that regard. He wants to see. He is willing to risk his only security to have the opportunity to come before Jesus. First, he had to have faith that it was going to be OK to leave his security. Second, he wanted very badly to receive his sight. Even when he was told to be quiet, he kept on calling out to Jesus. Third, his cry was for mercy. He had nothing to offer Jesus. He was totally dependent on Jesus to help him.

Like Bartimaeus, we too have to set aside our 'security blankets', whatever they may be. They prevent us from coming to Jesus. We cannot move towards Jesus until we believe that he will take care of us. We have to get up, throw off the blanket that we hide behind, cry out in desperation, and come to Jesus. He will receive us. We will never be denied when we come in such simple, heartfelt faith. For that is why he came – for our salvation.

[text shortened from: <http://www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/Reflections/Article/15045/For-our-salvation#.VioYeNLoiHs>

picture: <http://liturgy.slu.edu/30OrdB102515/main.html>]

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

November 1: All Saints Day

Social gathering after Mass – stay a while with the community, bring a dish to share...

November 8: Elisabethfest – Mass at **10.30 a.m.!**

Mass together with the German community instead of the usual 1p.m. time. Afterward, you are invited to join the feast in the church, including a kid's corner, food sale and closing organ concert.

November 15: Confessions

For those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confessions are scheduled after Mass.

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:

infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com