

## Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Gospel of Mark. Jesus was just leaving Jericho on His way to Jerusalem, with a large crowd following along. As they went along the road, they passed by Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, hoping that someone would toss him some means. When he heard the people in the crowd talking, he knew that Jesus was there. He began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" People grew annoyed and told him to be quiet- but that just made him shout even louder. Jesus stopped the crowd and had Bartimaeus brought to Him. When Jesus asked him what he wanted, Bartimaeus asked Jesus to give him his sight. Jesus said, "Go on your way, your faith has made you whole." Immediately, Bartimaeus was able to see! Bartimaeus then followed Jesus into Jerusalem with the others.

Jesus hears us when we cry. Even though others may try to quiet us, we should continue to seek Jesus. We may not be able to see Him, just as Bartimaeus could not see Him, but He is there. He does hear us. And all things are opened to us if we believe and have great faith, like Bartimaeus. That doesn't always mean God gives us what we ask. His will may be different from our own. But like the beggar, once we see Jesus and can see the road on which He is traveling, we must travel it with Him.

Preparations continue for the Christmas Play! The students have been working hard, writing the dialogue and practicing a special song, complete with instruments. The Christmas Play will take place during worship service on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope you can participate- please join us!

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director