

***Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way***

October 25, 2015

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalms 126 (5)

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52



"I want to see Jesus" Object: A bouquet of flowers.

Isn't this a beautiful bouquet of flowers? Can you imagine what it must be like to be blind and never see the beauty of things such as these beautiful flowers? The gift of sight is one of the most precious of all of God's gifts.

There is a story in the Bible of a man named Bartimaeus. He had never seen the beauty of a bouquet of flowers, because Bartimaeus was blind. One day as he sat begging beside the road, he heard the sound of a large crowd of people coming his way. He asked someone what was happening and they told him that Jesus was passing by. Bartimaeus had heard of Jesus and about how he had healed many who were blind. He began to call out to Jesus. Others in the crowd tried to get Bartimaeus to be quiet, but he would not be silent.

Jesus heard the voice of Bartimaeus calling out to him and he stopped and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Teacher, I want to see!" said Bartimaeus.

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." The Bible tells us that immediately, Bartimaeus received his sight.

That is a wonderful story, isn't it? Unfortunately, stories about the blind don't always end that way. There are many blind people who want to see, and yet they are never healed. Fanny Crosby was one of those people.

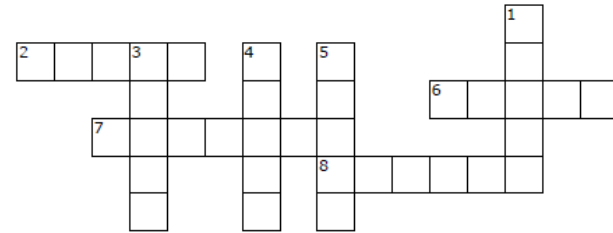
When Fanny was only six weeks old, she was left blind by an illness. Even though she was blind for the rest of her life, Fanny was never bitter or complaining. Instead she made the most of her life by using the other gifts that God had given her. She had a wonderful gift for writing poetry and during her lifetime, she wrote over 8000 poems. Some of her poems were set to music and many of them are still in our hymnals today, such as *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* and *Blessed Assurance*.

Dear Father, we thank you for the gift of sight. We thank you for the gift of writing you gave to Fanny Crosby. We thank you for your love for us. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for the heavenly kingdom. Alleluia (2 Tim. 4:18)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. Kind or compassionate treatment
- 6. Making little or no noise
- 7. Making an urgent plea; asking for charity
- 8. To be restored to health; cured

DOWN

- 1. Unable to see
- 3. To make happier or more joyful; a shout of encouragement
- 4. Confident belief in the truth
- 5. The ability to see

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|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| blind | mercy | cheer | healed |
| begging | quiet | faith | sight |

BLIND GAME: One student is blindfolded while other classmates take turns giving directions to the "blind man". This will help the students to understand what being blind can be like and will ALSO show them how blind WE are too sometimes to the blessings we have all around us. Example: Teacher can let children know they can give directions such as hopping 3 times, or touching their toes, or clapping behind their backs, etc.

READ OR SING A FANNY CROSBY SONG: Have students turn to a hymn by Fanny Crosby and read or sing the words! If the song or chorus is well known; have them sing it with their eyes closed. Hymn ideas: "Blessed Assurance," "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross."



"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.
The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."
Mark 10:51 (NIV)