

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, October 27, 2024  
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle B

Have you ever experienced the feeling of overwhelming relief when something you thought was lost forever is found? Imagine losing something precious, something irreplaceable, and after much distress and searching, it is finally found. The joy of recovery, the gratitude you feel, is beyond words.

In today's first reading, we hear a powerful proclamation of God's promise to bring back his people from exile. This was a time of deep suffering for the Israelites, a period of separation from their homeland, and a feeling of abandonment. Yet, in the midst of their pain, God promises restoration. He will lead them back with tears of joy, providing them with comfort and safety. Today's gospel narrative gives us a living example of this restoration in action. We meet Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sitting by the roadside, desperate for help. When he hears that Jesus is passing by, he cries out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!" Despite being rebuked by the crowd, he persists, and Jesus stops, calls him over, and restores his sight. Bartimaeus' faith leads to his physical healing, and just like the Israelites in exile, his despair is transformed into joy as he immediately follows Jesus. His life, once marked by blindness and begging, is now filled with hope and purpose.

So how does this theme of the joy of redemption apply to us today? First, it reminds us that suffering is not the end of the story. Like the Israelites in exile or Bartimaeus in his blindness, we all experience periods of hardship, loneliness, or loss. These moments can feel overwhelming, but the readings today remind us that God is always working toward our redemption. He never abandons us. He hears our cries and is always ready to restore us. Second, the joy of restoration and redemption calls us to live with hope and faith. When Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus, he was rebuked by the crowd, but he persisted. He believed in Jesus' power to heal him, even when others told him to be quiet. Like Bartimaeus, we are called to have faith in God's power to redeem our lives, no matter the obstacles we face. Redemption might not come immediately, but we are called to trust that it will come in God's perfect timing. Third, this joy is not just for us to keep to ourselves. The joy of redemption is meant to be shared with others. Just as God calls his people from the ends of the earth, gathering the weak and the broken, we too are called to reach out to those around us who are struggling. We are called to be instruments of God's compassion, bringing hope and renewal to those in need. When we share the joy of redemption with others, we participate in God's ongoing work of restoration in the world.

God's redemption is always at work, turning our tears into laughter, our sorrow into rejoicing. Let us open our hearts to the joy of God's redemption in our own lives. Let us trust in his promise to restore us, even when we feel lost or broken. And as we

experience his healing and renewal, may we go forth and share that same joy with those around us, bringing hope to a world in need of redemption.

This week, I invite you to reflect on moments in your life where God has restored you, where he has turned your sorrow into joy. Give thanks for his unending mercy, and look for opportunities to share that joy with someone who may be struggling. In doing so, you will be living out the call to spread the joy of redemption that God offers to each and every one of us.