

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." ⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

It is a simple prayer. "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" It is probably a prayer that should be always on our lips. It is addressed to Jesus. It acknowledges Jesus for who he is. It expresses our need for help. And, it admits that we cannot help ourselves. How simple, it is a pray of merely eight words. Add to that prayer Bartimaeus' persistence even in the face of hostility, and you have the kind of prayer to which the Jesus of the Gospels responds.

When we pray, we tend to bring out our list and check off the items we would like Jesus to deal with. Have we become a little too familiar with Jesus, and therefore, have exchanged the relationship for the results? A helpful acronym for keeping our prayers in balance is ACTS, which stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. The focus of the ACT is the One, Jesus Christ whom we adore, to whom we confess who we are, and to whom we give thanks for his faithfulness and mercy. Only when we have addressed the One can we apply the plural "S" of all our various needs.

Jesus, "*Son of David, have mercy on me,*" a sinner. Through you I have life and all that I have in this life. Deliver me from the blindness that prevents me from seeing you in my life, so that I might better follow your will. Amen.