

From Sight to Insight

4th week of Lent – March 26, 2017- John 9:1-41

In the gospel this week, Jesus cures the man born blind to the disbelief and rejection of those who believe they know better. The man's blindness has been utilized by the evangelist, John, as a means to provide insight into the process of conversion and one's slow growth and commitment to Christ.

The story opens with Jesus passing by the blind man. Jesus' disciples ask, "**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**" Jesus' response? "**Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.**" This seems to fly in the face of a loving and compassionate God. Why would God cause suffering to show His glory?

This doesn't make sense if we are only looking at physical blindness. Scripture scholars are quick to point out that Jesus does not answer the mystery of human suffering. This story is about spiritual blindness, a condition that each of us have at birth. The blind man is directed to go wash in the pool of Siloam, which means "sent." The baptismal undertones and motif bring into focus the purpose and reason of the gospel. Jesus is the LIGHT through which each person comes to know (to see) the living God.

Our personal insight of God comes in stages. We don't come to a full relationship with God in an instant. We will never come to full knowledge of God because God is bigger than we could ever comprehend. The layers and complexity of God can only be grasped as we come to a personal realization and, more specifically, a personal relationship with Jesus as the Messiah, the one "sent" to redeem us. "**I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.**"

This lack of sight is the very thing that the Pharisees did not grasp as they challenged, questioned and rejected Jesus. "**Surely we are not also blind, are we?**" It might be good for us to evaluate our own "sight", to see those areas where we are blind to Jesus' presence. Do I believe that I have full knowledge of God? Do I (arrogantly) believe I had some monopoly on the truth? How might I grow in my knowledge and relationship with Jesus?

The conflicts and struggles of the early Christian Church are played out before us in this week's gospel. It reflects the ongoing struggle of each Christian as we move from sight (seeing Christ) to insight (realizing how little we truly know Him). Once we grasp that we are in need of the Light of the World to cure our blindness, we can then move from "sight" to insight in God.

Blessings!


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