

Fourth Sunday of Lent - A – 2020
Mass Suspended due to Coronavirus

On-Line Homily

1 Sam. 16.1b,6-7,10-13a///Ephesians 5.8-14///John 9.1-41

--It wasn't supposed to be this way....this wasn't supposed to happen....certainly not to us.

--We have done everything right...made intelligent decisions....followed all the precautions and rules...stayed far away from everyone...washed our hands....covered our mouth and nose.

--We have been extra cautious...careful to avoid anyone and everyone.

--In the last few days, we have agonized over every decision that had to be made...doing everything the health professionals and government officials tells us...following all the advice and recommendations of family and friends...

--Scared....stressed...anxiety...fear...confusion...worry???

--Pick any one or more of those words...they all describe what we are feeling right now...every moment of every day....as we deal with what now seems to be the “new normal”...at least for the time being...

--This wasn't suppose to happen....not to us at least....and perhaps the question we really want to ask is....whose fault is this?...who is to blame?

--These are questions and thoughts anyone of us can think and ponder about.

--Whose sin is it?.....whose fault is it?...why is this happening to me?...to our family...our community...our country...our world?

--These are questions we ask every time we are confronted with a mystery we cannot solve.

--every time we are faced with a situation that we cannot explain.

"whose sin is it?".....it has to be someone's....right?

--We ask these questions because we are not really comfortable with the alternative that may be there are no easy answers.

--that, simply, sometimes bad things happen to good people.

--When you think about it we are not really comfortable....in situations like this...unless we can pinpoint a reason for it and assign someone the blame.

--cause and effect....theory and proof...the wages of sin and evil versus good and right.

...bad things happening to good people...

--We have this innate desire to point the blame to someone or something when things go wrong...even if that someone turns out to be us!

--because it is painfully difficult and hard for us to believe that God's glory can shine forth from anything that we find painful or horrifying or just plain wrong!

--So.....we ask.....who sinned?...who screwed up? ...who is being punished?

--In today's Gospel we hear that as Jesus and the disciples passed by, they come across a man blind from birth.

--The first question the disciples ask is:

"Rabbi...who sinned...this man or his parents....that he was born blind?"

--"Tell us what happened"... "tell us who we can blame"... "tell us who is at fault"... "tell us"...so that we can all feel safe...tell us so that we can all feel secure and comforted.

--As we hear, the reply Jesus gives to this question is one that challenges us to see the world in a completely different way.

--Rather than asking, "*who sinned?*"

--Jesus invites us to ask... "*where is God in all this?*"

--*Where is God in all this as people become sick?*

--*Where is God as we face a different kind of life?*

--*Where is God as we look for an end to this crisis and some relief?*

--Rather than looking on the surface, Jesus invites us to look into the heart and the soul of the person afflicted.

--In fact, as the reading continues, we learn that it was the neighbors who ask, "*how were your eyes opened?*"

--In reality, the neighbors ask the right question looking beyond the surface and searching for a deeper meaning to what had happened.

Throughout our lives, Jesus challenges us always to do the same, not to ask the obvious question... "*who sinned?*" but rather to look beyond to the deeper meaning of what is happening and what we are facing.

--*How have our eyes been opened?*

--*How is God made visible in all of this?*

--*How will we be made stronger, more resilient, more 'faithful' through all this?"*

--These are not easy questions to ask and likewise there are no easy answers, especially when asked in a time of anxiousness and despair.

--There is no simple way to remove our distress or protect us from circumstances happening in our lives right now.

--BUT they are questions that can point us in the right direction.

--Towards the ONE who leads us from darkness into light!

--Towards the ONE who gives us and sustains our life and asks us to spread that life to one another!

--Toward the ONE who provides us with courage, strength, and hope!

--How have our eyes been opened!

--If we continue to focus, reflect and ask that question, we might just be amazed at what we begin to see...the strong resilient hope we have... *to not be afraid...to remain strong....to have confidence!*

--No doubt our lives have definitely been impacted...life as we know it, for the time being, is not what we are use to, comfortable with, or what we want.

--It is easy to become overwhelmed and unsettled...but God continues to watch out for us...take care of us and love us.

--God is there for us to give us strength and hope.

--We need to remember *not to be afraid...not to fear...*but to be confident in God's care for us...*for this too will pass...and soon we will sing God's praise, be thankful for His goodness, and resume living life to the fullest.*

Be safe...Stay healthy...and May God's blessing, peace, hope and comfort be ours in the coming days. Saint William, pray for us....