

15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday  
July 14, 2019  
“Our Blind Spots”

Dt 30:10-14  
Col 1:15-20  
Lk 10:25-37

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Sad to say, we all have blind spots. Every one of us has something about ourselves that we don't really see clearly, if at all. It might be regarding our relationships – It might be the way we see the politics around us – It might be the way we justify or rationalize a particular behavior that does not square with the deepest principles we espouse. Very often our blind spots are about ourselves and things we do or don't do.

We can be blind to our racism – blind to our sexism or misogyny – blind to the faults of friends or family members whom we wish to protect or not rile. However, for most disciples and believers, we can be blind to our placing external rules before what God is really asking of our hearts!

The Book of Deuteronomy was written to codify all the Commandments and statutes that became the Torah. Today, Moses is telling the Chosen People that they strayed because they were lacking in their faith. True faith always presumes a personal relationship with God. Simply believing in God – or knowing that God exists – is never enough. We must live our lives the way God has created us to be as fully developed human persons.

Commandments and rules are important. They can protect us and keep us from doing terrible things – But there will always be things that the laws and rules don't address – And how we respond to these can reveal our blind spots.

Consequently, it's important to be in touch with the presence of God within ourselves. Because there, in our hearts, God can tell us how to deal with the unique problem or circumstances before us! This is the message in the Gospel account from St. Luke.

The priest and the Levite based everything they did on the Law and the Torah. Touching someone who was dead or diseased rendered them “unclean” for worship and for family interaction. They did not know the man who lay unconscious on the roadside –

so they felt no obligation toward him. In their blindness they passed him by – and felt they were doing the right thing by remaining undefiled. But how wrong they were!

On the other hand, the disdained and deplorable Samaritan truly responded to the situation in a godly way. He had an authentic relationship with God and knew what he must do. Thus, he interrupted his journey, administered first aid, went out of his way, and even spent money for someone whom he did not know. He was truly “neighbor” to the man who had been a victim and was passed by!

Sadly, for the legalistic Jews, “neighbor” extended only to family, friends, and those of Hebrew religious beliefs. Anyone else was an outsider and beyond their personal obligation or concern! How blind they had become, especially the priestly class! In fact, the scholar of the Law was so taken aback by this parable of Jesus that he could not even say the name “Samaritan”. Samaritans were an offshoot from Judaism who were generally regarded almost as enemies.

Brothers and Sisters, blind spots will continue to haunt us as long as we live on this earth. However, this should not deter us from trying to eliminate them and see clearly the truth about ourselves and about our behavior.

The key to clear vision and self-insight is always in Jesus, his Gospel, and his Holy Spirit. For as St. Paul tells us today, Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is the perfect human being who reveals who and what we must all be and become. He holds everything together. He reveals all that God has planned for us, for our world, and for the universe itself.

So let us pray that our relationship with Jesus will enhance our relationship with the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And may we begin to see clearly all that God continues to ask of us!

Amen.

July 14, 2019

Msgr. Russell G. Terra