

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

TRY TO LEARN WHAT IS PLEASING TO THE LORD

March 18/19, 2023

God's ways are totally different from our ways, and His thoughts different from ours (Isa.55:8-9). He sees things differently from how we see them. This was clear when David was being chosen as king. Samuel saw the outward appearances of the brothers and thought they would be suitable to be kings, but God rejected them. David was seen as a shepherd boy, but God saw him as a king.

When the man born blind was healed, he recognized Jesus as a prophet, while some of the Pharisees saw Him as a sinner because they felt He was not keeping the sabbath. He believed that Jesus was from God, so He was able to do anything. He was ready to believe in the Son of Man, and so when he realized Jesus was the Son of Man, He worshipped Him.

Before the man's eyes were opened, his world was shrouded in darkness, because he could not see the light. But when they were opened, he could see the light, and could recognize Jesus. As St. Paul told the Ephesians, we were once darkness living in the dark because of our weaknesses and sins. But through the saving power of God in Jesus, we are light of the world, and we are to live as children of light.

This is because, 'light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth'. Since some of the Pharisees refused to accept the truth, even though they considered themselves as not blind, Jesus told them that they were living in sin and thus, spiritually blind. Even though the man's physical eyes were opened, he received divine inspiration and enlightenment, and was able to see Jesus as a prophet and someone who came from God. He became light and a teacher even to the Pharisees. He expressed surprise of their lack of faith and knowledge of Christ: "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where He is from, yet He opened my eyes...It is unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man is not from God, he would not be able to do anything".

Am I blind or can I see? Do I see Jesus with eyes of faith? What is making me blind? Am I always looking at outward show and physical appearances? To have my eyes opened is to accept Jesus as the Son of Man and learn

what is pleasing to the Lord. It is to learn to know what God wants me to do and to be able to see what He sees and how He sees things. Is the way I know and see myself the same way God knows and sees me? What about the other person; do I recognize him or her as God knows him or her?

How am I living as light to my family and friends? How do I present myself to the world, as someone living in God's presence or just like one of them? Am I producing any kind of goodness and righteousness and truth? Am I taking part in any fruitless works of darkness? Do I feel shame to involve myself in things which are contrary to my Christian faith? How do I see the world and the things around me? No matter what I see in the world and the experiences I encounter, I have to always learn the ways of the Lord and try to learn what is pleasing to Him.

“Do not model your behavior on the world around you, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and mature” (Rom.12:2).

Jesus used earth to open the eyes of the blind man, something which was used to create us in the beginning. God wants to recreate me and open my eyes to see Him. The sun shines every day, and so if the blind do not see light, it does not mean that the sun has stopped shining. It is due to sickness. In the same way it is sin which prevents me from seeing God and experiencing His love. It is not that He has stopped loving me. Let us ask the Lord to create a clean heart in us and renew the right spirit in us so that we will know what to do to please Him, and our lives will give glory to Him.