

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020

Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/032220.cfm>
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Blindness. Lack of vision. The inability to see. Are we blind?

Sometimes it seems as if I am not able to see what is right before my eyes. I somehow seem to miss the clues, behaviors, emotions and feelings of others, of myself, and yes, of God. Have you ever had that experience?

Our world sometimes gets so caught up in things and activity that we fail to notice the important happenings right in front of our noses! That is a bit what happens in the Gospel this week...the man born blind encounters Jesus and at first is not sure who he is. As they engage in conversation, the blind man begins to "see" that this man, Jesus, has the power to cure his blindness. Jesus asks the man, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" (A term that refers to the anointed one, the messiah.) That conversation leads the man to profess his faith, "I do believe, Lord."

His physical blindness is but a part of the story. Jesus not only opens his eyes to the physical world around him, but also to the spiritual world within him. Through the healing action of Jesus, the man is able to "see" with his eyes, with his mind and his heart! His profession of faith is a sign of his conversion from a life of darkness (i.e., bad choices, sinfulness) to a life walking in the light (Jesus).

We too are called to look beyond the blindness of our eyes; to open the eyes of our hearts that we may see as God sees, and turn from darkness toward the Light of Christ. This week I invite us all to look at the areas in our lives where we are blind. What are we missing when we look at the people around us? When we look at our world? When we look within our hearts, do we signs of God's presence and healing mercy? I pray that we, like the man born blind, may acclaim, "I do believe, Lord!"

Blessings,

Dr. Cheryl