

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A; HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS

READINGS; 1st 1Sam. 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13; Eph. 5:8-14; Gospel Jn. 9: 1-41

Introduction; our time of lent has moved to the fourth week and Jesus goes further in his teaching about Himself and His special role as Messiah and the one who came to deliver His people from the darkness of sin into the light of life. He is the life of the world whoever believes in Him will have life and inherit eternal life. In today's readings; there are two examples which should take us to stronger relationship with Jesus who is the presence of the father in this world. God sees our hearts, consciences, intentions even before we present ourselves to Him, we just have to confirm our faith and trust in him and all other things will fall in the right way.

Reflections; taking the words of St. Paul in the second reading today, God has enlightened our hearts so that we may give up the works of darkness and live as children of light. Paul's message breathes hope and encouragement: "Wake up from our sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you".

Light and darkness are part of life. We have gotten used to them to the extent of even not realizing their usefulness in our lives. God created the light to separate day from night, He did not create darkness but the light. After the fall of Adam and Eve, darkness reigned again in the hearts and lives of humanity. The entire history of humanity in the Old Testament is marked by God's unceasing efforts to bring humanity into light of new relationship with God's love.

At the dawn of the New Testament a new light came into the world and into the history of humanity. Jesus Christ the light of the world, setting humanity free from the darkness of sin and death. Whoever believes in the son of God lives in the light, and this light is Christ whom the father sent to liberate his beloved sons and daughters from the slavery to sin and death. The healing sign in the gospel of John today entails the reality of the mission of Christ. At the beginning of the narrative stands the phase of relationship of the Old Testament and as they continue in the dialogue the New Testament phase comes in; real belief in Jesus Christ the son of God.

Christian vocation requires us to be the light of the world. We who are illumined by Christ have an abiding mission to be the light of the world like Jesus. The more we live like him and let his light shine upon us, the more we become a light unto others, the children of light. As we draw closer to the mysteries of the church whose climax is celebrated on Easter Sunday, we are called upon to establish spiritual insights in the light and healing power of Christ. The blind young man whose eyes were opened believed and his spiritual eyes recognized who Jesus was.

Similarly, when we spend our forty days of lent with Jesus in dialogue of prayer and fasting and alms giving, we shall be able to see Jesus in our brothers and sisters and love them as we love ourselves and in them love God above all else. Jesus we ask you to open our spiritual eyes to see you every day of our life. Amen