

While I am in the World, I am the Light of the World

In today's gospel, Jesus gives sight to a man born blind by instructing him to go and wash his eyes in the Pool of Siloam. Jesus not only referred to himself as the "light of the world," but he also proved that he is indeed the source of light. This scripture passage is very apt for all of us, especially the catechumens. Not only do the waters of Siloam signify the waters of baptism in which we were immersed, and the catechumens will be immersed, but in a deeper sense as St. Ambrose puts it, "The Passion of Christ became a fountain where the blindness of all Christians, especially the catechumens, was washed away, and our eyes were opened, and we could see the light." In other words, the cure of the man born blind became a sign of the light of baptism that we all received, and the catechumens will receive at Easter.

The man in the gospel was born blind out of no fault of his own. We can imagine him perceiving the world from his own human reality as a dark and unjust place, filled with hardships, ridicule, hopelessness, and no one to speak for him.

In the face of the difficulties of our time, we are like the man born blind in the gospel, who was hopeless, insecure, and living at the mercy of others until he encountered Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician. An encounter that brought light into his life, restored his human dignity, and transformed him to the point that he began to see hope again, his faith became stronger, he spoke for himself with courage and became a fearless witness to faith in God. He found what was missing in his life in Jesus Christ.

With the pain and hopelessness of our time, it can be difficult for today's message to ring through. Where do you find light and hope? Remember, it is in life at its dreariest, scariest that Jesus chose to say to us, "**While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**" As individuals, we too, like the man born blind, can find our light and hope in Jesus because when we do, we are able to then "live as children of light." St. Paul echoes the same sentiment when he says:

*Brothers and sisters, you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.*

With these powerful words from today's 2nd reading, St. Paul invites us to live for Christ. By virtue of our Baptism, we share in the life of Christ and thus are the light of Christ in the world. The words of Jesus – **While I am in the world, I am the light of the world** – are very much alive today because of our presence in the world. Because of you, Jesus expresses in our time that he is still in the world, and he is the light of the world. How can we then become that beacon of light, hope, and peace for the world today? Use your words to lift people up rather than put anyone down. This week, share about Jesus with someone, expressing conviction and joy. Pause to reflect – are there people I resent or have not forgiven? Am I judgmental towards others? Am I humble in my interactions with others?

May the light of Christ brighten our hearts and homes.

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