

2020-4TH Sunday of Lent

The disciples ask an interesting question. “Who sinned—this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Their question implies that the man must deserve the predicament that he is in. They think that it is his fault that he is blind.

But Jesus says that neither the blind man nor his parents sinned that he should be born blind. It is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.

And then Jesus heals him. The blind man is now able to see. Yet, not everything is clear to the man. He knows that Jesus healed him, but he doesn't know who or where Jesus is. His life is overturned, and he doesn't know how to respond. It takes a while for him to come to grips with it.

The gospel doesn't give a specific timeline for these events, but implies that they occurred over weeks or maybe even months. As time goes on, the blind man grows in faith. At first, he refers to the Lord as, “the man called Jesus.” To the blind man, Jesus is just some random guy who helped him out. But later, when the man stands before the Pharisees, he calls Jesus a prophet. And he acknowledges that he has become a disciple of Jesus, because he asks the Pharisees, “Do you want to become his disciple too?”

Then finally, at the end of the gospel, the blind man meets Jesus again and he makes a profession of faith. He says, “I do believe Lord” and then he worshiped Jesus.

The works of God were made visible through him. The blind man began with very little understanding of the Lord. But Jesus reached out to him and touched his life. And over time, the blind man grew in faith until he was finally able to proclaim Jesus as Lord and worship him.

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Perhaps in our past, we had very little understanding of the Lord. Perhaps in our past, Jesus only existed on the margins of our lives. Perhaps we could not always see him; perhaps we were not always aware of his presence. But he was still there. He reaches out to us, to touch our lives and bring us closer to him.

In this time, we are much like the blind man. We cannot see where we are going. We are not sure what is going on around us. We are relying on other people to help us.

As Christians, we have been visited and touched by the Lord. But right now, he seems to be on the margins of our lives. We continue to reach out to him and to strive after him. Yet it is difficult to see where he is and what he is doing.

Perhaps we can take some consolation from the Psalm: “Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for you are at my side.”

Our lack of vision does not stop the Lord from seeing. Our lack of certainty does not prevent the Lord from leading us. He is still active, leading us through this dark valley. By faith, we place ourselves into the hands of the Lord, trusting that he will guide us in right paths.

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Look upon those who call to you Lord, and sustain the weak. Give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.