

“Can a blind person guide a blind person?” (Lk 6:39). Jesus is not trying to pick on those who have lost their physical sight. He is highlighting the fact that while we can easily find fault with others, we are often blind to our own sins. And those sins may be much larger than the fault we find with others. Before you try to point out the faults of another person, you should take stock of our own faults and failings. If you are truly blind to your own sin, you may be the last person to recognize it.

Amidst the many frustrations of the pandemic, you may have noticed how quick you are to find fault with others. The opinions and traits of others, whether they be familiar family and friends or total strangers, seem to annoy us more easily. Likewise, your own faults are magnified, and others can become more easily upset with you as well. What are we to do?

When we ask for the help and assistance of others, our field of vision can be much wider. Colonel David Hackworth was a decorated military veteran who served honorably in Korea and Vietnam. In one of his many assignments, he spoke to warriors after the heat of battle to help record their stories for the sake of history. He found that everyone had something to contribute but that the field of vision of any one individual often limited the accuracy of what they saw. By talking to as many people as possible, Colonel Hackworth got a well-rounded picture of what actually happened.

The parables that Jesus tells are very powerful. They help us to see the truth of a situation from God’s perspective. Reflecting on how they apply to your own life and situation, you may start to see your own sinfulness more clearly. What a gift!

Jesus often helps the blind to see through miracles. These blind people of faith have the ability to see and understand Jesus more clearly and more readily than those who have sight. “Can a blind person guide a blind person?” A person blinded by prejudice will help us to see others through the lens of hatred. But a person who is physically blind often has a more heightened sense of smell, taste, touch, and hearing. Before being too quick to dismiss their insights, you should be careful to listen and learn from them. Like the historian on the battlefield, you may begin to see in a new way when you open your sight to a broader range than the limits of sight alone.

As you see and understand the limits of your own blindness, Jesus asks you to reach out to him for healing. In the forgiveness of our sins, Jesus invites us to experience life in a new and more joyful way ... aware of our own imperfections, but also more tolerant of others.