

# Connecting With the Sunday Readings

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today's reading is about the cure of the Man Born Blind. Unlike any other miracles, the man never asks to be healed. Jesus just does it. Scholars say that we live in a visual culture, so many of our secular values focus on appearances. "Looks" can be thought of as everything. And that's not all bad, but it can be incomplete. We have been gifted with sight, and in faith. We see creation as a manifestation of God's creativity and beauty. See the artist in the artist's works. The paintings of great artists are not only beautiful in themselves, but show forth the beauty that is in the mind of the artist. So one of the questions we might ask ourselves this Lenten season is this: Do we see God in all that God has created or do we only see its surface?

## A Gospel Word for the Home

### John 9:1-41

The Gospel for this Sunday is about seeing Jesus, the real Jesus. There are two primary approaches to Jesus given in this Gospel. The blind man represents seeing Jesus for who he is along with the good that he has accomplished. The Pharisees could not believe the miracle even though it was right in front of them. They had no faith. He does something absolutely good and wonderful. He gives sight to the blind man. But what do the Pharisees focus on? He "worked" on the Sabbath. The cured blind man saw the good and the Pharisees totally missed it. They were focusing on the negative—focusing on the law.

How might this relate to the rest of us who walk through each day making judgments about "good and bad?" Maybe we need to appreciate more of why Jesus called himself "the light of the world." Notice that he didn't say "the light of God" but one shedding light on the meaning on this world. His life, his deeds, and his words showed what the world really is deep down. It showed the people of his time as well as us whose world this is. It is God's. But when evil is present—people often are blinded by it. They cannot see, and therefore do not believe.

## Parent Survival

Parents are like tour guides. Their role is to help their children see important features along the journey of life. In doing so, parents also make themselves a bit more alert to God's actions. They see more clearly as they explain to their children. Parents help their children see more *deeply* into reality, to where God dwells, the Creator, the Sanctifier, and the Redeemer. The primary "parental school-room" is life itself. Of course, this kind of teaching is the most challenging of all because it comes from seeing ourselves and paying attention to God's action in our own lives.

Sometimes parents misunderstand the phrase "parents are the primary religious educators of their children." It does not mean that the parent's role is to explain the fine points of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Rather, it is to serve as models and leaders, showing children how to live according to God's ways, and see him in all things. When parents help their children to see the basic goodness in the world, in God's world, they do a miraculous thing. Everyone, in a sense, is blind from birth. The scales come off slowly.

## Car or Meal Talk

Ask each family member what is the most beautiful thing they have ever seen. Point to the reality of God's creative action in our lives.

*-by David Thomas, PhD, Co-Director, The Bethany Family Institute*

## One-Line Prayer

God the Father, help us to see you more clearly and love you more dearly, day by day. Amen.