

A Reflection from Fr. Canisius for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners,

There's a lot to unpack in today's readings. Take time to read and ponder the readings! At the center is Jesus' miraculous healing of a man born blind. He used tangible things (mud and spittle) in this miracle, just as we use tangible things (oil and water, for example) in the sacraments of the Church.

Today, however, let's focus on the interaction between Jesus and the man born blind at the end of the Gospel, after the man has regained his sight. Some of the Pharisees believed Jesus must have been a sinner because he performed this miracle on the sabbath. The great irony, of course, is that they themselves were blind to the Light of the World: Jesus, the Son of God. The Pharisees questioned both the man and his parents and determined that the man had indeed been born blind. The parents didn't want to say how he gained his sight because they didn't want to be expelled from the temple and they were afraid. The man, however, maintained that Jesus opened his eyes, and that God listens to those who worship and obey him, so Jesus must be of God.

By the end of their heated discussion, the man born blind was driven out of the temple. What does Jesus do when he hears of the man's expulsion from the temple? Jesus goes to him. Jesus seeks him out and says, *Do you believe in the Son of Man? ... The one speaking with you is he.* And the man born blind worshipped him.

Friends, when any member of the body of Christ is hurt by another person, Jesus seeks that member of his body. Jesus wants to find every lost or hurting sheep. Jesus knows our hearts, and he seeks out every single person, especially those most in need of healing. And when he finds us, sitting with our wounds or working through them, he comes with compassion. He asks us, *Do you believe in the Son of Man?* May he find each of us able to proclaim, "*Yes, Lord, I believe.*"

Yes, Lord, we believe that you are the Son of God. Lord, we believe that you are truly present in the holy sacrament of the altar. Lord, we believe that you died and rose again, and that you can heal our every wound. We believe, Lord. Help our disbelief. We long to see you, Lord. Heal our blindness.

As our Lenten journey has passed the halfway point, how can we grow more in love with God through the works of our Lenten practices? God deeply loves and knows each of us. He desires that we get to know him and love him as well.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Canisius