

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Homily.

Do you think Jesus can repeat the miracle in your life?

After all, you may not need a miracle. Well, that is exactly what the Pharisees thought, and they posed the rhetorical question, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?”, meaning they did not need Jesus to intervene in their lives. Hence, Jesus concluded, “your sin remains.” To assume that you are not in need of the healing touch of Jesus is a sin. To assume that He cannot heal you is a sin.

Often, we are tempted to believe that miracles happen elsewhere and in the good old days, not now and not here. They do not seem to happen in our place and in our time. Another temptation is that we do not feel the need for Jesus' miraculous touch. We often feel like the Pharisees, who were in no hurry to let Jesus open their eyes.

Do not think that Jesus can't heal you. Do not think that He can't restore your vision. Do not think that He can't restore your innocence. Do not think that you are doomed beyond salvation and restoration. The Jesus who gave sight to the man born blind is still available here and now, and he loves to heal you. We just need to follow the instructions.

Go back to the beginning of the gospel passage, you find it in John chapter 9. Upon seeing the blind man, the first attempt was to shift the blame to someone, hence the question, “Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus did not bother to answer that question. Jesus is not interested in their blame game. That is instruction number one: do not engage in the blame

game. One may trace a situation to one's own bad choices or those of others. You are not going to fix the problem just by finding someone to blame for it. Things happen in our lives for a reason. Jesus articulated it well, saying, "It is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

In other words, He wishes to make you an instrument to reveal the works of God. He wishes to transform you so that those close to you would be confused if you were the same old person. You may still wear the same old dress, live in the same old house, drive the same old car, and work in the same old job, yet people would find a brand-new person. It is a miracle only Jesus can do.

Then Jesus mixed some dirt with his saliva and smeared it on his eyes. Let Jesus smear you with His words. Flood your eyes and lives with the word of God. That is instruction number two: apply the word of God in your life.

Finally, he was sent to a pool called 'The Shiloah' (meaning the sent) with an instruction to wash his eyes. It is an act representing the seven sacraments He instituted. The apostles and their successors are the ones sent to administer those sacraments. Especially wash yourself abundantly with the sacraments of the Eucharist and confession, so that you have the vision Jesus wants you to have.

Follow the instructions, and gain the vision Jesus wants you to have. Do not let Jesus pass by you without healing you this Lent.

Amen.