

Some reflections on the Scripture readings for Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Some years ago, I took a vacation trip to Nova Scotia. Since I had my golf clubs with me, I tried to get in a round of golf. It was quite foggy when I started out and much to my surprise I could hit my drive, quite literally, out of sight. Later, when the fog lifted, I realized that my drives were not all that far. The fog had altered my sense of reality. In today's first reading we find the prophet Samuel in a like situation. He was told by God to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the next king of Israel, but God did not tell him which one. So, one after another the sons were brought to Samuel, God kept saying to Samuel, "No, not this one," even though to Samuel's eyes they looked like apt candidates. When the youngest, a mere adolescent at the time, was brought to Samuel, God said, "Yes, this is the one. Anoint him." God saw something in the young David that no one else saw. Only after some years had passed did other people see what God had seen. I suspect that we are all in that same boat. God asks us, "Do you see what I see?"

In the Gospel reading from St. John, we see a blind man whose vision is restored. Physically he can see what he had never seen before. Spiritually, we see him penetrating ever more deeply into the mystery of Jesus. When first questioned about what had happened, he replied, "It was the man Jesus who healed me." A little later he will say that Jesus is a prophet. Still later he will acknowledge that Jesus is God. As his vision becomes clearer and clearer, the blindness of the Pharisees becomes darker and darker. We are children of the light. We believe that Jesus is God, that Jesus is the light of the world, that Jesus is Savior. How deeply do we live this reality? Is our faith growing? Is the light penetrating deeper into our being?

In the face of this coronavirus, where do we see God? Do we question God's goodness? "How could a good God let such a terrible thing happen?" Do we see Jesus suffering in His members? Do we see the goodness of doctors and nurses and all kinds of health practitioners triumphing over the darkness of sickness and death? Are we moved with compassion as Jesus was when he saw people suffering? Do you see what he saw?

I hope that these reflections will help you as you continue your lenten journey to Resurrection and full life in Christ.

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