

Story of the blind merchant

- Selling wares in the busy train station
- Kids knock over his table
- He is on the ground trying to pick up everything
- Man comes by... hurrying to get his train. If he helps he will miss his train.
- He gets down, helps the man gather his scattered items, and walks away.
- The blind man calls out, "Hey mister, Are you Jesus?"

This story may not be true but it is a good parable.

In today's Gospel, we hear: the Greeks come to Philip "We would like to see Jesus."

Why did the blind man think it was Jesus?

- The fact that he died to himself and helped the man?
- That he helped him without expecting to be repaid?
- That he loved the man more than he loved himself?
- That he sacrificed his plans for someone else?
- That he got down on the floor and served like Jesus did?
- That he was willing to serve the poor the outcast.

Jesus says unless a grain of wheat dies, it does not produce fruit.
Whoever loves his life loses it... whoever loses his life will save it.

In the Gospel, the Greeks wanted to see Jesus...

Who are the ones who want to see Jesus today?

Maybe they are living in a prison.

Or a single parent on food stamps.....or an alcoholic or drug addict...

Or maybe a refugee family fleeing from violence or your neighbor who is grieving a death.

How will they see Jesus if we don't show him?

We are the ones who lift him up for others to see
living like he lived,serving like served,loving like he loved.
forgiving like he forgives.

We are the ones who lift him up so he can draw all to himself.

Our Lenten journey is coming to a close.

We have heard of the many promises of God.... The covenants He has made...

- With Noah after the flood... the promise that never again would God destroy the earth.
- With Abraham, who was willing to sacrifice his son.... The promise that his descendants would number the stars in the sky,
- With Moses, in giving the 10 Commandments... the promise that we would obey.

And today first reading, we have God making a new covenant. I will write my law on your hearts. "I will be their God and they shall be my people."

And the greatest promise is that God is ever forgiving and will remember our sins no more

Story. In the book "the Ragamuffin Gospel, Brennan Manning recounts the true story of a woman who reportedly had visions of Jesus.

The Bishop heard of this and set up a meeting with her. "Is it true that you have visions of Jesus?" he asked. She answered "Yes."

"Well, the next time you have a vision, I want you to ask Jesus to tell you the sins that I confessed in my last confession."

The woman was stunned. "Did I hear you right, Bishop? You actually want me to ask Jesus to tell me the sins of your past?"

"Exactly, and please call me if anything happens."

Ten days later the bishop heard from the woman. He asked, "Did you do as I asked?"

"Yes, bishop, I asked Jesus to tell me the sins you confessed in your last confession"

The bishop leaned forward with anticipation. "What did Jesus say?"

"Bishop, " she replied, These are his exact words. "He said, I can't remember."

"All will know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoings and remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31: 34