

Points for reflection on the Gospel reading, 4th Sunday of Lent

The blind man and the pool of Siloam

The disciples' question to Jesus:

What was the man's blindness due to, his or his parents' sin?

Jesus' response:

It was not caused by anybody's sin. It was for the manifestation of God's works.

You need to look closely enough, within and without, to see God's works through the signs He performs- in nature, in you.

God is not yet finished with His creation. He is still at work.

Nothing is perfect in this world. There is neither physical nor spiritual perfection. Perfection has to wait for the next world.

And God is more concerned with the spiritual domain. He wants us to be spiritually perfect. "Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Mt. 5:48). This is our life's goal, our challenge.

Physical perfection means nothing.

A bud blossoms to perfection today, only to wilt, wither and die tomorrow.

The ruddy, youthful prime does not last long. So why worry too much about physical perfection?

If everything was perfect in this world, man would be so haughty that he would not feel the need for God.

This does not mean that man should not strive to attain every good that could make him happy.

Do your best and leave the rest to ***divine providence***.

God worries more about our spiritual wellbeing.

He performs wonders- signs in St. John's terminology- so as to encourage us in our faith. He does not work miracles to show off. Satan wanted Him to.

His miracles are signs that lead us gradually to a deeper reality, a more profound faith, to lead us out of spiritual blindness, to be "children of light." Eph: 5:8-9

The blind man enjoys a twofold healing. He is cured of his blindness from birth. He also experiences a spiritual healing through the light of faith. There is a progressive growth in his faith. His perception of Jesus changes from 'A man called Jesus' to 'the Son of Man', the Lord. His openness and sincerity lead him in the course of his encounter with Jesus to a faith that enables him recognize Jesus as the Lord.

The blind man who had no pretenses to any 'sight' comes to see in a twofold way. The Pharisees who had the pretension to great 'sight' were awakened to their 'blindness'.

Paul says: "Live as children of light."

Are we afraid to come out from the shadows into the light so our inner self will be exposed? Are we willing to shine the light into the dark recesses of our being to see clearly what is in there- our ignorance, pride, arrogance, stubbornness, self-conceit, jealousy, intolerance?