

NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE

I was blindsided. I didn't see that coming! We say things like that all the time. Because we are sighted we can easily begin to think that we really and truly see things. And if we are smart or if we have some degree of street smarts, we can really begin to think that we see, that we get what is really going on. We can think this or believe this about ourselves—even when it does not happen to be true.

Look at all the news you are exposed to and watch. Inside you perform a sifting process giving some credence to what you hear and withholding credence from some of what you see. "Oh, I get it!" we say to ourselves. "Oh, I see what you're doing." "Oh, I see what's going on."

I find myself saying things like this: "I believe that there are all kinds of things going on that the average person has no idea about." But we sense that there is something more happening. There are very clued in people who have the inside track, and enough power, money and influence, to work at a level beyond our level. They identify themselves as the ones who should be making the decisions—for the rest of us.

But I will tell you this. God works at the most grassroots level there is. That is what we learned from Jesus. Who did he go to? Who did he hang around with? It wasn't the sophisticated or the wealthiest or most powerful. It is only at the end when he is hauled before them that they decide that he must be put to death. They will decide who lives and who dies. What an adrenalin rush that is. I will decide. I am the one who sees truly enough to decide if you may continue to go on living. Talk about power.

Is that not taking to ourselves a divine prerogative? Whether capital punishment. Assisted suicide or doctor appointed suicide. Or abortion. The arrogance of life and death power. And do those who call others to recognize them as the arbiters for these decisions even recognize what is going on in their minds and hearts?

\*In today's first reading the prophet Samuel goes to anoint the Messiah, one of the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. Jess presents seven sons. None of them are the one. The youngest is brought in. That one, the youngest, is the one. Why? Because not as man sees does God see. No. God's sight is the truth, the best, the beautiful, the good, the unifying. God is not impressed with appearances. For God sees beyond the externals. IN our culture have we not settled for relying on the appearances of things? That has never been a Godlike way.

Recently, in my personal praying Our Lord has asked me to place my self-image. My reputation, and the priesthood to which he called me fifty years ago—into his hands. Why? It did not make sense to me. So, why did the Lord want me to entrust these things to Him? So that He could take them. Purify them. Then. Restore them to me in much better fashion. Not to penalize me. Not to deprive me. Not to inflict punishments on me because of past sins. At first, I DID NOT UNDERSTAND. At first, I DID NOT SEE. But then, the eyes of my heart were opened.

Is that how you are looking at things in life? With the eyes of your heart? Through the prism of faith in Jesus Christ? Because that is what Our Lord asks. Trusting Him even when things are not making sense? Seeking to please Him when the darkness comes over you—especially the darkness of doubt, of questioning, of lack of trust, of fear.

Like the parents of the blind man in today's gospel. Little people. But they could have stood by their son. They could have thanked God for the sudden gift of sight after so many years without seeing. But they gave in to their fears. That was their darkness. That was their blindness. They could have chosen a different path. So can we. So does Jesus us bid us to choose. The path of true sight and no fear. The path that leads us away from the darkness of doubt and into the path of trusting Him always.

My friends, there is nothing better than to live your life by the truth of Jesus, living his way in a world that thinks it needs nothing from the carpenter from Galilee. But, of course, we do. We really do!