

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, Year A (March 22, 2020)

Fully discover who Jesus is

What is narrated in the Gospel of John

In this Sunday's Gospel we read about the healing that Jesus does to a man born blind. The evangelist, Juan, transmits a strong message to the faith of the Christians of that time as well as to us who, at this moment, are living a critical moment before the spread of the Coronavirus throughout the world.

If we read the passage from John 9.1-41 with a marker in hand, we will be introduced into a kind of DRAMA between the BLIND, the Pharisees, the Jews and the parents of the blind. Above all, the blind man did not see from birth and asked for livers to live. The Pharisees were a group of pious Jews, considered to be law enforcement. And John calls the high religious authorities of the Jewish people of Jesus' time generally "Jews." It is a symbolic "theological drama" of great literary beauty, that is, it is not a news-like chronicle of a historical event, but John wants to convey to us what the life of a Christian who believes in Jesus can be like at any time of the history.

At the center of the drama: the blind man who discovers who Jesus is

In the story, the blind man becomes the center. Everyone wonders: how is it possible that a man born blind is now able to see? They suspect that something great has happened, they ask who it was that made the blind man, but they don't want to believe that it was Jesus because he was a man. Even less having worked on Saturday, a sacred day of rest that the Pharisees scrupulously kept. And even less so since the blind man was so poor that he asked for alms at the foot of one of the city gates. They all question the poor blind man who now saw: the neighbors, the Pharisees, the heads of the temple, etc.

Jesus meets him again, in solidarity, upon learning that he has been expelled from the synagogue. And in this encounter, the blind man comes to "see fully", not only the light, but the Glory of God of God, recognizing in Him, the definitive envoy of God, the eschatological Son of man, the Lord worthy of being adored.

Current global situation on disability

The World Health Organization notes that there are physical, mental and sensory disabilities. That 15% of the world population (more than a billion people) suffers from some form of disability. In addition, it is estimated that between 110 and 190 million people over the age of 15 have serious difficulties in functioning in the environment in

which they operate. The figure is increasing due to the longevity of the population and chronic diseases. The outlook is bleak, as the demand for resources from governments for this budget line is permanently unsatisfied (percentage deficit of 35 to 50 in developed countries and from 76 to 85 in others). Blindness, in its different degrees, is a fairly frequent disability in our media. The WHO (World Health Organization) estimates that there are some 285 million visually impaired people, of whom 39 million are blind, and the rest have serious visual deficiencies.

Life review. Let us ask ourselves:

It seems that John would like to emphasize the special blindness that religious authorities have in admitting the miracle of Jesus. Those who should be the most lucid are the most blind. Does this aspect of today's Gospel have any relevance for our days? For example, compare what criteria the prophet Samuel followed to know who was the king that God had chosen: God said to Samuel: «God does not look like men, who see appearances. The Lord looks at the heart »(1 Sm 16.7).

What were the main moments in my life to discover who Jesus is and live participating in community life within the Church to which I belong?

Prayer: Let us ask ...

* So that those who doubt the presence of God among us discover their love for the living and effective witness of the followers of Jesus.

* For the Lord to open our eyes and allow us to live life with courage, according to the values that Jesus proposes to us in his Gospel.

* So that in the face of the rapid spread of the Coronavirus in the world, we are more supportive in complying with the various norms of coexistence between us and that the efforts of the rulers and health specialists find the fastest way to stop and eradicate this pandemic.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cfr. Koinonia Services. Latin American Bible Service, 2020.