

IV Lent – Year B –3/11/2018

Blind spots, we all have them. Mine is on my right side. Following my surgery almost 20 years ago, they put a gold weight in my eye, and then sewed one end of it so that my eye would close when I sleep, thus protecting my cornea. I couldn't get the doctor to release me to drive, so I made my way to SLU Hospital for an appointment. I begged her to release me. She asked, "Do you honestly think you can?" I said, "How do you think I got here today?" She relented. However, I still have to double check that right side when I'm driving.

Doesn't it seem strange that the blind man doesn't say anything to Jesus until after he was healed? He didn't ask Jesus to heal him. Maybe he didn't ask because he didn't think Jesus could heal him. But Jesus saw potential in him. Jesus picks this man.

This scriptural account bursts with images of creation...reminding us all that everything and everyone begins life with God's loving initiative. **God always takes the first step.** Continuing the work of the creator, Jesus molded clay and touched the man's useless eyes. He **sends** him to wash them in the pool of Siloam – meaning "sent" – and he goes. **The second step is ours...**that we receive God's initiative. With his acceptance his troubles begin.

Everyone questions him, especially the religious leaders. Are you really that blind man? He simply says, "**I am.**" He repeats the six step formula of his healing: Jesus made clay, anointed my eyes with it, told me to go and wash, I went, I washed, and now I can see. It is clear that John, the gospel author is more interested in the **faith sight** which Jesus gives the man rather than in his physical sight. The narrative builds to the climactic statement, "**I do believe, Lord.**"

This most unlikely person reaches faith in Jesus, while the religious-oriented scholars of the law remain **faith blind.** **The man saw Jesus for who he was, and said, "I believe," which can also be translated, "I see."**

David is the most "unkingly" looking of Jesse's eight sons. In a Cinderella twist, David is God's choice. Yahweh reminds Samuel, "Not as humans see does God see. Humans see the appearance; Yahweh looks into the heart." It's all about **faith sight.**

"Brothers and sisters," Paul writes, "you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

What ties these scripture passages together is discernment. Samuel has to figure out which of Jesse's son to choose...he has God helping him. The blind man had God in Christ healing and standing before him. Paul was knocked off his horse by God, and had the community to return both **body and faith sight.** The more we realize we all have blind spots, the deeper we can fall into relationship with God through our living, praying and loving others **and** the closer we are able to see with the eyes of God. **AND** God is good, all the time. Let us be the same. Lord, help us to see.