

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT A 2008  
“Surely we are not blind, are we?  
If you were blind, you would have no sin.  
But you say, “we see”,  
so your sin remains.

I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THIS STATEMENT HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

BUT RECENTLY I HAVE HAD SOMETHING HAPPEN TO ME

THAT HAS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND IT A LITTLE BETTER.

THE PHARISEES ARE VERY JUDGMENTAL

AND RESENTFUL OF JESUS.

IT IS A LITTLE LIKE THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

WHO LOOK FOR ANYTHING

THAT WILL DISCREDIT THEIR OPPONET

AND OVERLOOK ANYTHING GOOD

THAT THEIR OPPONET MAY HAVE DONE.

OR EVEN WORSE,

THEY WILL EVEN TAKE A GOOD THING THAT THE OPPONET

HAS ACCOMPLISHED

AND PUT A NEGATIVE SPIN ON IT.

NOW THAT IS A REAL BLINDNESS.

SO LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO ME

THAT HELPS ME UNDERSTAND THIS PASSAGE.

MY NIECE ANGELA IS AN OPTOMOLOGIST

AND LAST YEAR SHE TOLD ME,

UNCLE TOBY YOU HAVE THE BEGINNINGS OF CATARACTS.

WELL THIS YEAR SHE SAYS TO ME,

UNCLE TOBY YOU ARE READY FOR CATARACT SURGERY.

I KNOW THAT SHE HAS MY BEST INTERESTS AT HEART

BUT I SORT OF KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

I WOULD GO TO THE SURGEON

AND HE WOULD TELL ME THAT THEY WERE NOT THAT BAD

AND I SHOULD COME BACK IN A YEAR OR SO.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE:

I CAN SEE WELL,

I CAN SEE COLORS

THERE ARE NO BIG RINGS AROUND LIGHTS AT NIGHT.

I WENT TO THE SURGEON AND HE TELLS ME

THAT I AM READY FOR SURGERY.

THE CATARACTS, ON A SCALE OF 10, ARE AT 6.

AND HERE I REALLY THOUGHT

THAT THE REASON I CANNOT SEE

WHERE THE GOLF BALL ENDS UP ON MY DRIVES

IS BECAUSE I WAS HITTING THE BALL FARTHER.

(FUNNY HOW I CAN INTERPRET MY DECLINING EYE SIGHT

SO THAT I OBSCURE THE TRUTH)

I NEEDED SOMEONE TO TELL ME,

SOMEONE WHO REALLY KNOWS HOW EYES WORK

THAT I WAS BELOW PAR.

OTHERWISE I WOULD GO ON THINKING THAT MY EYES ARE FINE.

I HAD TO TRUST SOMEONE ELSE

TO TELL ME THAT I AM NOT SEEING AS WELL AS I SHOULD.

I HAD TO GIVE UP THE IDEA THAT "I CAN SEE"

AND ACCEPT THAT I WAS BECOMING LESS ABLE TO SEE.

I HAD TO ADMIT WHAT SOMEONE ELSE WAS TELLING ME

AND IN ADMITTING THAT, THEN I COULD CHANGE.

WHEN MY LENS IS TAKEN OUT

AND NEW ONES ARE PUT IN,

THEN I WILL REALLY BE ABLE TO SEE,

ESPECIALLY THOSE OF YOU

WHO MAY BE SLEEPING IN THE BACK HALF OF THE CHURCH

HERE IS MY POINT:

RELIGION, LENT – IS ALLOWING THE MASTER TO TELL ME

WHAT I AM NOT SEEING

WHAT I AM MISSING.

WHEN I ACCEPT THAT TRUTH

THEN I WILL TAKE THE STEPS

THAT ALLOWS GOD TO CHANGE MY SIGHT

TO CHANGE MY HEART

TO GIVE ME A NEW WAY OF SEEING

AND A BETTER WAY OF LIVING.

OF COURSE IF I SAY – OH I SEE ALRIGHT

MY LIFE IS GOOD ENOUGH

THEN MY SINS REMAIN.

SAINT THEOPHILUS SAID IT THIS WAY –

GOD IS SEEN BY THOSE WHO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SEE HIM,

PROVIDED THAT THEY KEEP THE EYES OF THEIR MIND OPEN.

ALL HAVE EYES,

BUT SOME HAVE EYES THAT ARE SHROUDED IN DARKNESS,

UNABLE TO SEE THE LIGHT OF THE SUN.

BECAUSE THE BLIND CANNOT SEE IT,

IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT THE SUN DOES NOT SHINE.

THE BLIND MUST TRACE THE CAUSE BACK TO THEMSELVES

AND THEIR EYES.

IN THE SAME WAY,

YOU HAVE EYES IN YOUR MIND

THAT ARE SHROUDED IN DARKNESS

BECAUSE OF YOU SINS AND EVIL DEEDS.

A PERSON'S SOUL SHOULD BE CLEAN,

LIKE A MIRROR REFLECTING LIGHT.

IF THERE IS RUST ON THE MIRROR

HIS FACE CANNOT BE SEEN IN IT.

IN THE SAME WAY,

NO ONE WHO HAS SIN WITHIN HIM CAN SEE GOD.

MY FRIENDS IT IS TIME FOR US TO HAVE OUR MIRROR POLISHED

TO HAVE OUR SINS REMOVED.

IT IS THE TIME TO COME TO CONFESSION.

THE SCHEDULES HAVE JUST BEEN MAILED OUT TO YOU

CHOOSE A TIME.

ASK GOD TO HELP YOU SEE.

COME TO CONFESSION AND HAVE YOUR BLINDNESS REMOVED.

OTHERWISE WE ARE JUST LIKE THE PHARISEES WHO SAID

“SURELY WE ARE NOT BLIND, ARE WE?”

AND JESUS SAYS TO US:

IF YOU WERE BLIND, YOU WOULD HAVE NOT SIN.

BUT NOW YOU ARE SAYING,

“WE SEE”,

AND SO YOUR SIN REMAINS.