

10th March 2024 – 2nd Scrutiny, 3rd Sunday Lent (Jn 9:1-41)

From physical blindness, the cured man advances by stages to **full spiritual vision**. Like the Samaritan woman, his understanding of Jesus deepened. At first, he described Jesus simply as the **Man** called Jesus, then he recognized him as a **Prophet**, and finally, told that Jesus was the **Son of Man**, and he worshipped him as **Lord**.

Meanwhile, the Jews, who represent the authorities who are the enemies of Jesus, did not realize how they themselves were slipping from physical sight into spiritual blindness. They refused to accept that the blind beggar was ever blind or indeed that he was the same man at all. The story concludes with a warning from Jesus that their spiritual blindness was a far worse condition than the physical blindness of the blind man.

Of special interest is the role of the man's parents. They refused to accept the consequences of their knowledge. They represent those who will not witness their faith openly because of what it might cost. Their passivity contrasts with Jesus' activity as the Good Shepherd. As such, he cured the blind man, sought him out in trouble, encouraged him and helped him to his true identity. In Christian tradition, baptized Christians have recognized their own experience in this man, who washed in Siloam, which means the one sent. Jesus was the one sent by the Father.

It is a great gospel passage for the second Scrutiny on this third Sunday of Lent, **spiritual light**. The RCIA Program takes the catechumen step by step in stages to full spiritual sight. Some of our catechumens may come to this program already with spiritual sight. My only worry is that the catechumen may see others who call themselves Christian but are still spiritually blind. The greatest danger of cradle Catholics is that because we are baptized by birth does not necessarily mean we have spiritual sight or at least have kept up with our faith let alone deepen it.

That is why the RCIA Program is so important because you could be one of those people in the life of the Catechumen, and some are. You could also be one who is the light to someone searching.

Rachel Bundang in *Catholic Women Preach* reflects on today's gospel. She writes, "In the movie when *Harry Met Sally* in the final scene on New Year's Eve, 1980 something, Harry realizes that he's fallen in love with Sally, and he's racing through the streets of Manhattan to find her at a big, dumb dance with

a boring date she'd rather ditch anyway. And he breathlessly tells her, "I came here tonight, because when you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible." God can spark us, just like that."

And Rachel Bundang adds, "Having light in our lives and seeing as God sees—these are matters of great urgency. If we can bring light to others, shouldn't we do that without delay? God is light for us now. Live now. Live that for others.