

## **The Man Born Blind**

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A) - 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 9:1-41  
Ave Maria Catholic Church, March 19, 2023 - Fr. David M Vidal

The man born blind is an image of the fallen man who has been separated from God after the sin of Adam and Eve. The sin of our first parents deprives us of the vision of God. In God, there is no darkness. God is light, and He radiates goodness, truth, beauty, harmony, love, peace, and every good gift that we can think of or imagine.

However, after the original sin of Adam and Eve, our first parents, we were condemned to darkness, therefore, we were born blind. We inherit a wounded nature. There is something in us that is lacking. What is lacking is a relationship of friendship with God, our Creator.

Before the fall, Adam and Eve spoke with God in a relationship of friendship. After the fall, Adam and Eve hid from God in shame and confusion. That is the inheritance that we received from them: shame and confusion.

We experience confusion in our judgments. That is described in the first reading, which introduces the election of King David. We look at appearances; however, God looks at the heart. Many times, we are superficial in our judgments.

We also experience shame in our actions. That is described in the shameful interaction of the Pharisees with the man in the Gospel, who received the miracle of sight. The Pharisees refused to see the power of God and the miracle of grace. Their whole attention was focused on the fact that Jesus had made clay and opened the eyes of the blind man on a sabbath.

They were hypocrites. That is what Jesus explained to them on another occasion when He said: *“Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering?”* (Lk 13:15). Many times, we are ready to condemn what goes against our rules and desires, and we do not see the fault in ourselves.

### **Jesus comes to heal our blindness.**

Only God can create, and only God can re-create. We were created by God, as it is presented in the book of Genesis: *“The Lord God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”* (Gen 2:7). We were formed, we were created, out of clay and the breath of life.

Now, Jesus comes to us to re-create us. We were dead because of sin, and He comes to restore life and to give us life in abundance. He says: *“I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life,”* (Jn 8:12).

Jesus is our light, and He comes to illumine our darkness and bring us back to the Kingdom of light!

This is clear from the passage of the gospel. Jesus proclaims: *“I am the light of the world. When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on [the blind man’s] eyes, and said to him, ‘Go wash in the Pool of Siloam’ — which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see,”* (Jn 9: 5-7).

If the work of Creation is marvelous in our eyes, God’s work of redemption is even more glorious! The Word of God comes to us and takes our human nature. Then, he makes clay with his saliva and sends us to the fountain of water to be washed and to see again!

This is what happens on the day of our baptism. We go to the fountain of baptism after Jesus touched our lives with the grace of faith, we are washed, and our eyes are opened to a greater light: the light of life! This is the light of eternal life!

After that happens, we need to hear and follow the advice of Saint Paul to the Ephesians: *“Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”* (Eph 5: 8-9)

This is the grace we will ask today for the candidates who will enter the Church at the Easter Vigil and for each one of us:

That we may rejoice in the light that Jesus brought to us and prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the faith; Amen.