

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

I Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

“For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16: 7).

Once, a busy street came to a standstill. People saw a man forcefully dragging a young girl through the street. She was crying at the top of her voice “leave me, leave me”. People commented on that man to each other saying “what a merciless man he is, others said he has to be beaten to death for insulting a young girl in the public.” No one did anything and the man dragged the young girl and went on his way. On the next day there came up a write up in the daily Newspaper. The title was “father saves his only daughter from suicide.” People were thunderstruck by seeing the photo of this father; he was the same man who was dragging a young girl on previous day. They felt sorry for judging that man wrongly.

In today’s Gospel reading we hear about the healing of a blind man whom Jesus applies mud paste and asks him to wash in the pool of Siloam. This act of goodness is seen differently by different people. His disciples see the blindness as sin of the parents and the Pharisees see the act of Jesus as evil because he did not follow the Sabbath laws. Through this healing miracle Jesus invites us to see as God sees us not as we see ourselves.

### **How does God see?**

**Firstly - God sees us according to his plan :-**In the book of Genesis Chapter 18 we find that Sarah saw herself as a barren woman but God saw in her mother of generations. In Exodus chapter 3 we find that Moses who found himself as a person who can’t speak but God saw the freedom in him. In today’s first reading Prophet Samuel saw only a boy in David but God saw in him the king of Israel. Many looked at Mary as a young girl but God saw in her the ability to become the mother of God. Pharisees saw

only the blindness in the man but Jesus saw the Glory of God in him. It may not matter God how we see ourselves but it really matters to us how God sees us.

**Secondly: God sees us through the eyes of Love:** In the book of Judges 16: 21 we find that Samson was made blind by the Philistines. He was tied to the pillars ready to be killed. He cried to God, O God give me back my strength at least for this last time. God gave him back the strength and he destroyed everyone present in that building. In psalm 51 verse 1 David cries out to God “Have mercy on me O God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion blot out my transgression.” God saw David through the eyes of love and forgave all his sins.

**How do you see yourself and the others? Can we see ourselves and the others as God sees us?**

Yes, we can. It is possible when we can surrender our plan to God and accept his plan for us. It is possible when you see in your wife’s weakness or in your husband’s shortcoming the glory of God. It is possible when you see the mighty plan of God in your Children’s failures, it is possible when you see in the criticisms of your neighbor or your companions the hand of God to correct you and mold you.

So, dear brothers and sisters, in this Eucharist we shall remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross when everyone around him saw his work as a failure of his life, he saw you and me and said “It is accomplished.”

### **Prayer**

"Jesus, in your name the blind see, the lame walk, and the dead are raised to life. Come into our lives and heal the wounds of our broken hearts. Give us the grace to see realities through your eyes that we will see what you see and build up the kingdom with love and compassion. Amen.