

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent – 03-27-2022**

Pride is deadly – absolutely deadly. It's the reason for the fall of Adam and Eve which is why we were all born into original sin.

There is nothing more blinding than pride and there can be no greater obstacle to our relationship with Jesus than pride.

Pride is so evil that it can convince us of our own righteousness to the point that we can even believe that we are actually humble.

In the first reading David was chosen by the Lord over his seven brothers to lead God's people. Each of the brothers had many qualities but the Lord God knew the heart David.

David was therefore anointed with oil by the prophet Samuel and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon him.

However, if you know anything about King David you will agree that he was a big time sinner. But you will also have to agree that he was very quick to humble himself and repent in the sight of the Lord and in the presence of the people when he realized that he had sinned.

His humility was such that our Lord even said of him in spite of his sinfulness that David's heart was like unto his own.

In the gospel today the blind man represents all of humanity in that we all come into this world in darkness – the darkness of original sin – until Christ enters into our lives through the Sacraments.

Jesus is the light of the world. When Jesus met the blind man he spat on the ground, made clay, smeared it on his eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.

This was a foreshadowing of the Sacrament of Baptism – we are born in darkness out of the clay of the earth and reborn into the light in the waters of Baptism.

This poor blind beggar didn't hesitate for a moment to do exactly as Jesus commanded. As we heard in the gospel, "he went and washed, and came back able to see."

This infuriated many of the Pharisees, allegedly because Jesus had performed this miracle on the Sabbath.

So they brought the man born blind in for questioning, and then his parents, and then they brought the man back again.

But they weren't interested in anything he or anyone else had to say. They had already made up their minds and condemned Jesus in their hearts and were just looking for anything to justify their actions.

Listen again to the simplicity of this humble man who was born blind.

"This is what is so amazing...we know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God he would not be able to do anything."

Now listen again to the Pharisees response, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

They had no intention of discovering the truth, their hearts were too proud. And when they realized that they were not going to be able to manipulate this man they wanted nothing more to do with him.

As for the man born blind, Jesus sought him out and revealed himself to him and it says that “he worshiped him.”

At our baptism we were brought out of darkness and into the light of Christ to live as children of light.

Like King David and the man born blind we have been chosen by Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit but we must strive to live as children of the light.

Saint Paul tells us today in his letter to the Ephesians that we are to “Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”

This requires immense humility on our part because it means conforming our lives to all the moral, theological and even the liturgical norms of the Catholic Church without exception and to stop bickering over the things we don’t seem to like.

I guess the only question that remains for us to answer is are we humble enough, like the blind beggar, to let Jesus, through his Holy Catholic Church, guide us in every aspect of our lives or, like the Pharisees, have we already decided for ourselves?

In the end when we stand before the judgment seat of God we will discover the answer to this question. The only difference is then it will be too late to change our minds.

Pride is deadly – absolutely deadly. But humility holds the promise that when we die and stand before God we will hear those words from the second reading, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”