



Blessed Sacrament Parish
Homily by Father Mike Kuse
October 28, 2018 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126:1-6

Reading II Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel Mark 10:46-52

Homily

“Master, I want to see.” The blind man knew this was Jesus. He was different than everyone else, but the crowd was cheering around him. This man was an unknown, but in his heart the blind man knew— this is the one who can help me see. You and I this morning, we are that blind man and we are here saying, “Master, I want to see. Not everything in my life is perfect and you are the only one who can open up my heart and just let me follow you.” If you notice, and sometimes it gets passed over—when the blind man is told to get up and go to Jesus, the first thing he did was throw off his cloak. If you have ever been involved with homeless people and especially when they are blind or deaf, frequently all they have is a cloak or coat of some kind. The blind man threw off his cloak because he knew that Jesus was going to give him something, and he no longer needed that cloak. He would have something else in his life, and that is what he wanted.

So Jesus is asking us this morning, “Did you get rid of everything this morning before you came into church?” He is not talking about your car, your money or your house. Get rid of everything before you come into church.” And we begin by saying, “Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.” And Jesus tells us, “I am going to wash you clean but I have to know, ‘Do you want me in your life this coming week?’ And if you do, just rest assured that I will take you on a journey you never had before. And I’ll say that the next Sunday, and the next Sunday. Your life will never be boring if you are willing to see me for who I am.”

There is a lot of power within us and sometimes we forget that. And we can see Jesus in all circumstances. I will share a little story with you. I don’t know if you are familiar with the game of golf. Many years ago there was a man by the name of Charlie Boswell. When he was in the military he lost his sight, but he still liked to play golf and he continued to play golf even though he was blind. He frequently played in golf tournaments for the blind and won 14 championships. So to honor him he was brought to a very special gathering and Ben Hogan, who was a renown golfer, was going to present him with an award for his achievement, as a blind man, to win all these tournaments.

So, Ben Hogan presented him with a plaque honoring him in a very national way.

Following the ceremony Hogan came up to him and said, “Charlie, how about you and I playing a game of golf?”

Charlie said, “I’d love it.” Then Charlie asked, “How much are we going to play for?”

Ben Hogan said, “I really wasn’t thinking of playing for money, since you’re blind and I can see, but sure—how about \$100 a hole.”

Charlie said, “A hundred dollars a hole! How about \$1,000 a hole?”

Ben Hogan said, “OK. If that’s the wager you want to make. I look forward to this.”

And as they were parting Charlie said, “Oh by the way, I forgot to tell you. Our golf game will begin tomorrow night at midnight.”

Sometimes the heart can see. Charlie knew who Charlie was. Ben Hogan thought, “I’m the greatest. I’m a really good golfer, and I’m giving this award.” Sometimes you and I are like that in different facets of our lives. We forget that and say, “Oh, yeah. I’m the greatest. I can see.” And then we remember, “Oh, but yes, I wear glasses. And I’ve had cataracts, and other problems.” And Jesus says, “I really don’t care. I want to see what’s in your heart. Do you see as people of faith? And do you stick with that faith?”

In another parish where I served I got to know a woman who was well known in the community. She invited me out to her home and in the process of all this I asked if she was widowed. And she said, “No. I’ll have you meet my husband. My husband lives at such and such an address and he has his own apartment. He’s a renowned circuit judge, and he’s been an alcoholic for years. I love him very much but it is just not good for us to live together in the same environment. Every day I go over to his house and make sure he has everything that he will needs for that day, and then I come back and I am able to live my life. He is still the man I married 50 years ago.”

And so I went over to meet her husband and after that meeting I started to go visit him on a monthly basis just to visit and to take him communion. I anointed him. And she said, “You know, Father, most people do not understand until you walk in somebody else’s shoes why a couple would live like this. We have been blessed. As a judge my husband is fortunate in that he has one of the best pensions that anybody could ever hope for in life. So we can afford to have two different homes, and to love each other, and we will always be husband and wife.”

I thought to myself, “Wow.” So the lesson for us this morning, as it was for the blind man, is: “Lord, just let me see, let me understand what you are asking of me in my life everyday. Because some days I feel like I’m lost, and other days I feel like everybody is there for me.”

And so this morning we come back to the question: When you walked into church, did

you throw your cloak away? Because you really don't need it. Because as soon as we started Mass, we all acknowledged our sins and were forgiven of our sins. And if some deranged person walked in here and started shooting as someone did yesterday in the synagogue in Detroit, we could all die at once — and we would all go straight to Heaven because it is in this place that you and I discover God, and every Sunday we are forgiven of all our sins. We can walk out of here not knowing what is ahead for this week. It really doesn't make any difference because we know who Jesus is, and Jesus will always be there for us.

So, may you and I, every day and every Sunday, say, "I just want to see." Jesus says, "You have your sight. And you know who I am. You know me, and you cried out. Now you have everything. I love you, and because I love you—you can see."

You and I feel that power within us. It is not a power to control anybody. It is a power to serve, it is a power to walk in faith, a power to make a difference.

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