

## Year A 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Homily Outline

Today I'd like to talk about how Jesus offers us light and truth as Christian believers.

*To start with we don't want to think of light and truth in some sort of a vague way instead we need to think about how every human being is struggling with and trying to figure out how should I live? What am I supposed to do? What's the meaning of my life? Why does such and such happen? Why is the world like this? Why am I like this? And as we're trying to answer those questions, we need to realize that Jesus offers us the answers. They are found in his life and words in the Gospels especially, but also throughout Sacred Scriptures and the teachings of the church.*

Today's Gospel of the Man Born Blind teaches us the answer to the question of suffering.

“Within each form of suffering endured by man, and at the same time at the basis of the whole world of suffering, there inevitably arises the question: *why?* It is a question about the cause, the reason, and equally, about the purpose of suffering, and, in brief, a question about its meaning. Not only does it accompany human suffering, but it seems even to determine its human content.” - (John Paul II, Salvifici Doloris, #9).

### **Wrong answer:**

Job 2:9-10

THEN HIS WIFE SAID TO HIM, “ARE YOU STILL HOLDING TO YOUR INNOCENCE? CURSE GOD AND DIE.”

### **Right answer:**

BUT HE SAID TO HER, “ARE EVEN YOU GOING TO SPEAK AS SENSELESS WOMEN DO? WE ACCEPT GOOD THINGS FROM GOD; AND SHOULD WE NOT ACCEPT EVIL?”

### **1. Afflicted in the midst of suffering**

AS JESUS PASSED BY HE SAW A MAN BLIND FROM BIRTH. HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM, "RABBI, WHO SINNED, THIS MAN OR HIS PARENTS, THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND?"

JESUS ANSWERED, "NEITHER HE NOR HIS PARENTS SINNED; IT IS SO THAT THE WORKS OF GOD MIGHT BE MADE VISIBLE THROUGH HIM."

WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE SPAT ON THE GROUND AND MADE CLAY WITH THE SALIVA, AND SMEARED THE CLAY ON HIS EYES.

*As if he didn't have enough problems somebody comes and rubs mud into his eyes!*

The truth that Jesus wants to reveal:

## **2. Response**

AND (JESUS) SAID TO HIM, "GO WASH IN THE POOL OF SILOAM" —WHICH MEANS SENT. SO HE WENT AND WASHED, AND CAME BACK ABLE TO SEE.

The truth that Jesus wants to reveal:

## **3. "I DO BELIEVE, LORD," AND HE WORSHIPED HIM.**

This gospel is unique in that the miracle story is very small part of the story...But that's just the beginning of a much bigger and more important gift that the Lord wants to give him. And that gift of faith and discovering who Jesus is and worshipping Him.

*But that discovery is only going to come through this prolonged struggle with the Pharisees.*

The truth is that through the prolonged struggle we can deeply discover Jesus:

### **Jesus has compassion and heals those who suffer**

- MOVED WITH PITY, JESUS TOUCHED THEIR EYES. IMMEDIATELY THEY RECEIVED THEIR SIGHT, AND FOLLOWED HIM. (MATTHEW 20:34)
- MOVED WITH PITY, HE STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND, TOUCHED HIM, AND SAID TO HIM, "I DO WILL IT. BE MADE CLEAN." (MARK 1:41)
- WHEN THE LORD SAW HER, HE WAS MOVED WITH PITY FOR HER AND SAID TO HER, "DO NOT WEEP." HE STEPPED FORWARD AND TOUCHED THE COFFIN; AT THIS THE BEARERS HALTED, AND HE SAID, "YOUNG MAN, I TELL YOU, ARISE!" LUKE 7:13-14)

### **Jesus suffers: Passion and Death**

- "By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion" (CCC #1505).
- "Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus" (CCC #1521).

### **Jesus rises from the dead: Resurrection**

- "Suffering is in itself an experience of evil. But Christ has made suffering the firmest basis of the definitive good, namely the good of eternal salvation" (John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris*, #26).

## **Conclusion**

*"In light of heaven, the worst suffering on earth will be seen to be no more serious than one night in an inconvenient hotel." – St. Theresa of Avila*