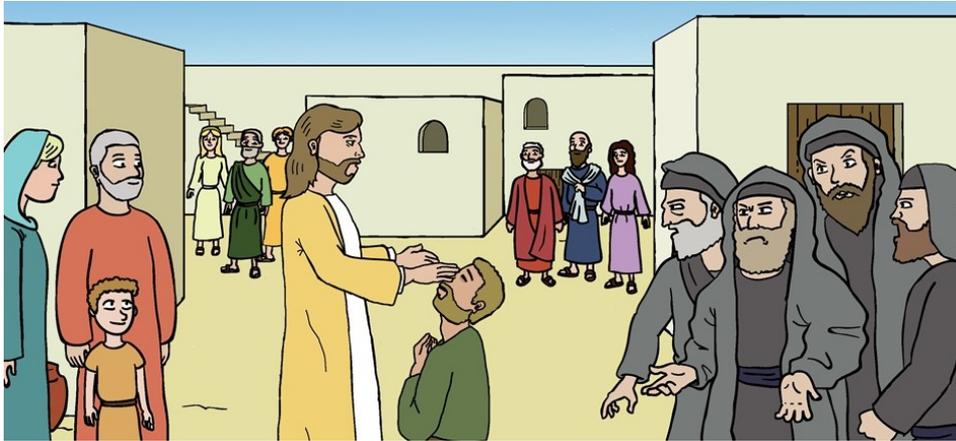


Fourth Sunday of Lent



said to him,

“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam”

- which means Sent —.
- So he went and washed,
- and came back able to see.

Reading I 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons." As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him."

But the LORD said to Samuel:

"Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart."

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these."

Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep."

"Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.

He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance.

The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!"

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6**R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. **R**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage. **R**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. **R**

Reading II Ephesians 5:8-14

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.

Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says:

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Gospel John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his 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.
His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
“Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is, “
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
He said, “I am.”
They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
So some of the Pharisees said,
“This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.”
But others said,
“How can a sinful man do such signs?”
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
“What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”
They answered and said to him,
“You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.
When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
He answered and said,
“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
Jesus said to him,
“You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”
He said,
“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

WITNESS OF THE TRUTH

There's a characteristic that defines Jesus and configures his whole action: his will to live in the truth. His decision to live in reality is surprising, without deluding himself or deluding anyone. It's not often that we encounter a person like that in history. Jesus only says the truth. He believes in the truth and seeks it. He's convinced that the truth humanizes everyone.

That's why he doesn't tolerate lies or coverups. He doesn't put up with distortion or manipulations. In him there's no tendency to dissimulate the truth or change it into propaganda. His honesty with reality makes him free to say the whole truth. Jesus becomes «voice of the voiceless, and voice against those who have too much voice» (Jon Sobrino).

Jesus always gets to the bottom of things. He speaks with authority because he speaks from the truth. He doesn't need false authoritarianisms. He speaks with conviction, but without dogmatisms. He doesn't need to pressure anyone. His truth is enough. He doesn't shout against the ignorant, but against those who falsify the truth out of interest in order to act unjustly.

Jesus invites us to seek the truth. He doesn't talk like the fanatics, who impose it, nor like the functionaries, who «defend» it out of obligation. He says things with absolute simplicity and authority. What he says and does is clear and easy to understand. People perceive it right away. In contact with Jesus each one finds herself and finds what's best within herself. Jesus brings us to our own truth.

When this man talks about a God who wants a life of dignity for the most unfortunate and defenseless, he's credible. His word isn't like that of a charlatan interested in his own cause. Nor is it like that of a pious religious seeking his own spiritual welfare. It is the word of one who brings the truth of God to those who want to welcome it.

According to the fourth Gospel, Jesus says: «I have come to this world so that those who do not see, might see, and those who do see, might become blind». That's the way he is. When we recognize our blindness and welcome his Gospel, we begin to see the truth.

José Antonio Pagola