

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Cycle A

Fr. Larry Richards

And so today we hear this Gospel, and we hear the Readings. And it all talks about light and sight. How light is necessary for people to really see. And here we begin with Jesus saying He is the light. Then in the Second Reading not only does He say He is the light, but Paul reminds us, “brothers and sisters you were once in darkness, but now you are the light in the Lord.” So first of all, I we need to reflect on that Christ came to bring light. And that we need to be that light, especially in this darkness.

If you have ever heard me before, I say again and again and again, that no matter how intense the darkness is, it can never conquer the light. If we are in a dark room and it is pitch black, and you light a match, or you light a candle, not matter how intense the darkness is, it can never conquer the light. As long as Christ was in the world, the light could not be conquered. As long as we are in the world and Christ is within us, the light cannot be conquered.

So, in the midst of everybody is losing their minds, and everybody is living on fear, we must be the light that conquers this darkness. We must be. Jesus Christ is inside of you. Don't let fear control your life. Let Christ control your life. Let His light shine, out of you and through you so that you can be the light in the darkness. That is the first part.

Now, the second part is we need to see the way God sees. In the First Reading when they chose David, here is Samuel, he is looking at all the great men and saying, oh this is him. And God says to him, “Look, you are looking as man sees. Not as God.” We need to look at this whole situation as God sees, not as man. Do we look at the goodness around us? The people that are working? That are giving their lives? Do we see the goodness around us? That is the call.

Too many people sit back and curse the darkness. They did it to Jesus. He was bringing all of this good, and they said, “No, He is a sinner.” How many of us have got that dark in our own lives where we go around and looking at all of the sinners and looking at what is wrong with the world. Looking at what is wrong with people. And we are saying these people are not good. I am good. We think that we know God's will. A lot of times we misjudge terribly. Terribly. We set ourselves up as the judge. When we bring the light of Christ, what did the light bring? It brought healing and love. Jesus brought healing and love to Bartimaeus.

So, in this time if we are going to be the light, our light most look for what is good. Not just cursing darkness. When you curse darkness, you become one with the darkness if you curse it too much. That is all you ever see is darkness. You and I need to bring the light of Christ, which will bring healing, which will bring love, and will help people see. We are called to live forever. This world is not our home. We need to remember that. If you do, you will not lose your peace and you bring the light because you will see as God sees.

May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.