

A Homily
4th Sunday in Lent
Focus on Ephesians 5:8-14 & John 9:1-41
April 2-3, 2011

Last Sunday, the Gospel story featured Jesus awakening the gift of faith in the heart of the woman from Samaria. He recognized that her deepest thirst was a desire for God in her life.

How the Lord wants to awaken faith in people! Today's Gospel also features Jesus leading people to what truly matters. The people who criticized Jesus in today's story were blind to the fact that God was so very active in Jesus. The man who was born blind was given sight by Jesus. More importantly, He accepted a vision of faith in Jesus while some other people in the story remained spiritually blind.

Lent is a great time to reflect about what matters most of all. It is a great season during which to thank Jesus for giving us the eyes of faith.

Think about why Jesus came. The Lord wants to lead us from the darkness of sin to the light of faith.

All of us were slaves of sin when our first parents chose their ways over God's ways.

Lent is a time to reflect on the truth that our Baptism enables us, as members of God's family, to live as adopted sons and daughters of God who need not remain lost in the darkness of sin.

Our Second Reading today from the Letter to the Ephesians reminds us of the choices we have. We can choose to remain lost in the darkness of sin by forgetting we belong to Christ. Or, we can choose to remember that we belong to the Lord and are to live as children of His light.

Just what does it mean to live as children of the light of the Lord?

It means we are to live in goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Goodness? There is so much ugliness in the world. **What if we were to do random acts of kindness without calling attention to ourselves?**

Righteousness? It means living for God's kingdom. **A big part of living for God's kingdom means asking God to enable us to live at peace with God, with others, and with our deepest selves.**

Truth? The world is filled with deception and half-truths. An old saying tells us if we stay on the path we are on, it will take us where it is bound to go. Our hearts know that Christ alone is the very Truth of God. He never leads us astray. **Are we praying to stay on His path?**

Palm Sunday is just two weeks away. Easter is only three weeks from now. We have reached the Fourth Sunday in Lent. It is a Sunday of joy. The rose-colored vestments and altar cloth remind us that this journey is bringing us closer to a realization of God's promises.

Can we prayerfully ask what would bring the most joy to God as we continue this journey through Lent?

We can be sure that praying to see with the eyes of faith brings joy to the Lord. It also helps us appreciate what Lent is all about and be grateful for what truly matters as we journey toward Easter with the Lord guiding the way.