

## **“The Manifestation of the Glory of God”**

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God works in countless wonderful ways in our lives, in unsuspected ways that can bring us back to life when he comes our way. This is what happens in today's Gospel. The miracle of the man blind from birth is amazing. Jesus makes the light shine and reveals the colors to someone who had never seen them, because he was walking in darkness; not only physically, but also spiritually because of the guilt he carried.

The Gospel of John narrates that it is Jesus who sees the man blind from birth, notices his presence. The disciples also realize and want to know why that man was born like this, to which they only give two alternatives: he was blind because of his parents or because of his own fault. The disciples said this because there was a popular belief in the Jewish world that if a person was born with some unfavorable genetic condition, special condition or disease, it was a consequence of the sins of his parents. This belief sinks its roots in several passages of the First Testament, where the curses lasted several generations; Thus, we read in Exodus 20:5:

"I am a jealous God: I punish the guilt of the parents in their children,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren when they hate me."

Jesus, the Son of the living God, clearly corrects this misunderstanding and opens the eyes, not only to the blind, but to those of us who follow him, affirming that the glory of God is manifested in him and in all, regardless of what the conditions with the ones we were born with or with which we currently live. Today we can explain, through science, why diseases arise or why some are born with some special needs without having to relate it to sins. Such occurrences are considered as part of the human condition and of existing as living beings.

However, we should not be surprised if we hear in some Christian groups the same misperception that these circumstances are justified as a consequence of

intergenerational sin. We must be clear that Jesus went beyond these ideas and went further by showing that in every situation there is an opportunity to find the loving manifestation of God, especially in the midst of illness and the painful conditions of life.

Following the narration, Jesus restores his sight to the blind man by forming mud from his saliva and dust from the ground. This reminds us of the creation of the human being narrated in the book of Genesis, according to which God modeled the human being with mud clay. What Jesus tells us is that with Him the new creation is being formed and, in this particular case, creating a new man who lived in darkness and guilt.

However, the blind man does not instantly regain his sight. After putting the mud in his eyes, Jesus sends him to wash in the pool of Siloam. This step to be healed does not depend on our Lord but on the blind man's act of faith, in the exercise of his will to move from where he was to the pool. According to the geography, moving from the temple to the south of Jerusalem was not something so simple for a blind man who did not know where to go. No doubt he must have asked for guidance and, with great effort, he finally made it there and washed himself. Then the word of Jesus was fulfilled, his act of faith gave birth to his life.

The man who returns is no longer blind, there is no darkness in his vision, a new world has awakened before his eyes. Now he is a new person, overwhelmed by the joy and joy of seeing what he could never have imagined. Jesus saw him in his path, acted on him, told him what to do, and the blind man, with faith and the hope of being able to see, strives to do his part and returns. The man who goes to wash seems not to be the same man who returns to the temple again.

Then comes the spiritual transformation that happens together with physical healing, because the previously blind now also sees the true light that is Jesus Christ. This light has turned him into a totally transformed person, into a new being that has left the bonds of darkness. He is no longer guilty, he has been totally freed from the belief of carrying the sin of his ancestors. Jesus has removed an unbearable burden from his birth that broke his spirit and had led him to live only on the alms they gave him. He now

he has been enlightened. Seeing is the greatest experience of his life and he bears witness to it without any fear and without hiding his past.

The Gospel narrative tells us, repeatedly, how those around him and the Pharisees refuse to believe that he is the same man. What's more, they send for his parents to verify it; with repeated questions they insist as if wanting to obtain a denial of what has happened as an answer. Now, paradoxically, those who are blind are others; Although they can see physical reality with their eyes, their spiritual blindness prevents them from seeing the transformation and the work of God in a poor beggar who was outside the temple. They question not only the one who has been healed, but Jesus, and in a perverse way; they tell each other that these actions cannot come from God. But the one who had been blind now sees and is sure of his faith and of the new reality that he lives; he does not allow himself to be intimidated by the pressures, he recognizes the power of God that has transformed him.

Therefore, brothers, let us follow the example of the one who was blind and was returned from the shadows to the splendor of light, to see not only the material reality, but the definitive reality that illuminates everything: Jesus, our Lord. Consequently, let us thank God for all the situations we experience daily, even adverse ones, and let us remember - as in today's Gospel - that divine glory is also manifested in them.

Jesus reassures us that there is no darkness that God cannot take us out of, even if we think that there is no clarity because we have been used to living in the dark. Let us arrange our being to recognize our Lord when he finds us, to see his light and, thus, depositing our act of faith and will, let us be born again and we can say together with the one who was blind: I believe, Lord!