



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

REMOVE MY BLINDNESS

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel

As Jesus approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging, and hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me!" Then Jesus stopped and ordered that he be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He replied, "Lord, please let me see." Jesus told him, "Have sight; your faith has saved you." He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God. When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.

LUKE 18:35-43

Reflection

The dramatic healing of the blind man in today's Gospel is consoling, in that all seek healing at one time or another and for different reasons. Blindness would have kept this man outside of the natural give-and-take of everyday life and relationship. He was a beggar on the side of the road, completely at the mercy of human traffic.

Obviously, the man's eyes were blind, yet the story reveals an astuteness of mind and spirit. He recognized the name of Jesus and his reputation. He had energy for life and a desire for wholeness, evidenced by his calling out to Jesus despite the oppressive crowd.

I glean two lessons in this Gospel. The first is that Jesus listened with compassion and invited the man to come forth. Rather than assuming what the man wanted, Jesus' profound respect for human dignity comes through in asking the man, "*What do you want me to do for you?*" Jesus trusted that the man knew what he needed and wanted from Jesus rather than assuming the seeming obvious. In this case, the ability to see!

God's love and reverence for life is also available to you and me. I may be able to see with my eyes, yet there are other forms of blindness. I am often unaware of my own need for God. I may be blind to false thinking that pushes me around and keeps me from wholeness. I may not see my selfish pride that keeps me from reaching out for help; or the tug of my ego that keeps me self-centered and blocks me from truly engaging mutual relationships. I may be blind to my need to be in full control of situations, knowing I have the "right" answer, or unaware of my self-righteous attitude.

Secondly, Jesus seems to ask that I am persistent, that I respond when I hear him call and that I ask his involvement in my life in a direct and tangible way. If I join the blind man in approaching Christ like that, then, like him, I will receive healing, peace, and grace. Then my life will be transformed.

Today Jesus awaits my willingness to go to God in my need. God's mercy, compassion and healing is mine for the asking. Sometimes only God can give me what I most need: the security of belonging to God; the mercy I know I need; or the assurance of God's love now and forever. I ask in faith, trust the love that is all-embracing, and am alert to God's own desire for my wholeness, integrity, and the well-being found in an ongoing relationship with a God who loves me far beyond my imagining.



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For Pondering

- Reflect on the healings, insights, and transformations experienced over your lifetime.
 - Listen and hear God calling you by name. God asks, "What do you want me to do for you?"
 - Loving God, at this time of my life, I ask _____.
-

For Prayer

*Gracious God of Life,
come to me, for I need you.
Hold me, heal me,
and remove any blindness of body-mind-spirit,
anything that keeps me from you.
Please give me the insight needed so I may be more your own each day.
Protect me from every evil and the evil I can do.
In you all is possible.
Loving God, I place my life and my trust in you,
who desires only my good.
Amen.*

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