



Daily Mass Readings Sunday, March 22nd, 2020

Readings: 1 SM 16:1B , 6-7, 10-13A

EPH 5:8-14

Gospel: JN 9:1-41

Reflections from Father Blessing

When I was in high school, I took a job at a service station. I was supposed to pump gas, check oil and transmission fluid, and fix flat tires. I had no experience, but in actuality just hoped that I could do it. How hard can it be, I thought. With the first flat tire that I tried to patch, I bent the rim of the wheel. Notice that I am not in the business any longer! I have had lots of jobs over the years. I have worked at a dime store, a restaurant, a department store, a rent to own company, a bank, and even a library [(I know what you are thinking, "could he really remain quiet?") I might have gotten 'shushed' at one time or another.] In all those jobs, I never thrived in any of them. I could do the work, but it was never satisfying.

Today I am actually a little surprised how effective I seem to be as a priest. I am responsible for more than I ever thought I would be. That is why when I read the scriptures today I can really identify with David and the blind man. Samuel believed that when David was presented to him that he was the one to lead Israel. Jesus believed that the blind man would be a model of discipleship for all ages. Both of these men had people who did not believe in them. David's own father did not believe he could be the chosen one. The Pharisees only thought of the blind man as a reject and a sinner.

Having someone who believes in us makes all the difference. I had people in my life that believed I would make a good priest (go figure!). I am here because of them. Who in your life believed in you? Who do you owe a debt of gratitude for supporting you in your life choices?

Another good question is, who in our lives do we dismiss as talentless or without gifts? I am sure that many of my former employers would be surprised to see where I am today. Wouldn't we be surprised if the people we have dismissed come up with the cure or appropriate response to the coronavirus? How many out there need encouragement to use their hidden gifts? May we open our eyes and take a new look at those around us!



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35