

The readings today are about seeing and not seeing, about what seems obvious but in fact hidden. I think that they are wonderful readings that deserve a lot of time, reflection and above all faith.

Even Samuel did not see the things as God did. What was obvious to God was hidden from Samuel too. He lived in his own kind of darkness. His eyesight was fine but his vision of God's will, was clouded.

There are other characters in these readings whose vision is clouded: the man born blind, the disciples, the pharisees, parents.

These readings ask us to look into the gospel characters and discern what part of them are mirrored at us.

Sometimes we play the role of disciples. We ask questions and seek understanding. We look to Jesus for answers to the ultimate questions of life. Why are the things the way they are? Whose fault is it that evil has entered the world? For example: with regard to corona Virus, we might have similar questions.

Sometimes we are like the crowd. We raise questions over different opinions and shatter our relationships with others over who is right and who is wrong. We foolishly bring all kinds of darkness into our lives.

Sometimes we are the parents of the man born blind. We don't want to get involved and prefer to play it safe. We are afraid to paralyze our love. Better someone else do it we think.

Sometimes we are the pharisees. We are so near sighted that we don't see Jesus in front of us. Or we are so far-sighted that we think only of heaven and forget about the people in front of us. Unwilling to change, we resist the initiatives Jesus is making in our lives. Instead of celebrating, we feel gloomy about the good fortune of the other.

Sometimes we are the blind man himself. We can see with our eyes, but miss God's spirit. We don't see the suffering we cause. We don't see God's beautiful image in others. We are blind to the goodness that surrounds us.

Sometime we can be like Jesus, who opened the blind man's vision to a new reality of life of faith. We can become light in the darkness of people's lives. The choice is ours. Everyone of us can find ourselves in this gospel story.

The first reading and gospel remind us that how we perceive the world is not always how God perceives it, and that oftentimes God chooses the ways we least imagine or the world rejects (such as the boy David's selection) to lead his people. The key in all things is faith in Jesus Christ. Whenever we feel lost or confused or in need of insight, let us remember this gospel and the one who said "I am the light of the world".

In these challenging times let us believe that God has not left us alone he will heal the world in his mercy.