

4th SUNDAY in LENT (A-7) (Translation) **Is there a hole in our Gospel?**

Whose sin is it? We just heard this from the disciples. But, what they really meant was, “Whose fault is it?” In a way they wanted Jesus to lay the blame on someone so that they could transfer the anger they were feeling onto the focus of the blame. Don’t we do this all the time? By trying to lay blame on why the man was blind, they distract themselves from the important issue: helping the man-born-blind cope.”

The disciples talk about but not to the man-born-blind. They want to feel better about focusing their energy not on helping, but on judging. His blindness caused him to be considered un-clean, a sinner or son of a sinner. He could not go to the temple, he could not go home, he had to fend for himself until someone would cure him. The man’s friends take him to the priests so that they could pronounce him cured. Now that he was cured, he wanted back into his community and his temple, but needed the official approval of his priests to pronounce him cured.

But what do they do? They did not do their job. Instead they took the opportunity to use this man for their own folly and evil plans. In a way we can say that God, too, used this man’s disability, but for a divine purpose: to show the glory of a God-who-cares. So both God and the priests use the man. One cares, the other doesn’t.

The priests looked for a way to discredit the cure by discrediting the one who cured and the one who was cured. Even his parents backed off their support when the priests went after him through them. They did not want to be expelled from the temple, because it was a curse to be formally kicked out. Do we care or not care? Are we blind or do we see?

Our country sees the problem of immigration, but, instead of dealing with it head on and healing it, we blame, we exclude, we vilify, meaning we criminalize people for wanting what we have, freedom to

work, earn, worship, take care families and give their children a chance.

Our country sees those suffering the loss of their homes but turns a blind eye to the institutions which made it happen. We see our children failing in school and are blind to the choices we make to educate them in a broken system of public schools. We choose to spend our money on things rather than investing in the future of people. We are all in danger of being told by God, “You who say you see, your sin remains.”

I am reading a book called: The Hole in our Gospel. The author is the head of World Vision, which tries to heal the wounds our world inflicts on the poor. He says we see the words on the pages but fail to see that we do not apply them in our lives. Sound familiar? I am fighting the guilt I feel of not doing enough to alleviate the pain and suffering of the poor, even the poor in San Jose.

I invite us to show our Elect, to help them see that we are children of the light, like the 1st reading says, and like our Baptisms call us to be. We can all make a difference for having lived and loved. Let this week be the week that we are healed of what blinds us to God’s presence. Let this week be the week that Jesus anoints our eyes with the mud of our sins, and sends us to our personal Siloams, to wash and be able to see. And let us respond like the newly healed formerly blind man: by worshipping, praying, studying, and doing the good works of the Gospel. Then we can be the light of the world God wants us to be.