

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Ps 146:(1b) 7-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Today's readings show us God's concern for the disabled. How closely do we share in his concern?



Monday September 6

Colossians 1:24 -- 2:3
Ps 62:6-7,9
Luke 6:6-11

We're all disabled, one way or another. We can have eyes that see and still be blind. In fact, the scripture from James shows us just how blind we can be!

Tuesday September 7

Colossians 2:6-15
Ps 145:1b-2,8-11
Luke 6:12-19

If we see only how a person dresses, for example, without seeing their giftedness, we are being judgmental. If we are more impressed by a person's wealth or title or college degrees than we are by his/her insights or willingness to serve, we are being judgmental.

Wednesday September 8 Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Micah 5:1-4a
or Romans 8:28-30
Ps 13:6abc
Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

Only God can see all the good that's in a person's heart, and yet we make assumptions about others. Only God can hear the motives and longings behind a person's words, and yet we quickly judge what is being said as if we know exactly what is meant.

Thursday September 9

St. Peter Claver
Colossians 3:12-17
Ps 150:1b-6
Luke 6:27-38

Friday September 10

1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14
Ps 16:1b-2a,5,7-8,11
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday September 11

1 Timothy 1:15-17
Ps 113:1b-7
Luke 6:43-49

Judgmentalism shows us nothing more than how truly blind we are.

Jesus wants to say to each of us: "Ephphatha! May your eyes and ears and mind be opened to the truth!" However, so that we can receive this healing, we have to slow down and stop reacting to what's visible and audible. We cannot trust what we see and hear. We need to take time to prayerfully pause for wisdom and discernment and new discoveries.

This is one of the reasons why Jesus gave us his Holy Spirit. When we let God's Spirit interpret everything for us, instead of reacting, we will act the way the Lord wants us to. Instead of reacting to partial information, we will act with faith and compassion.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. In what ways do you show partiality toward some people? What types of people do you tend to automatically prefer, based on outward appearances?
2. And whom do you tend to dislike until you get to know them better?
3. How will you begin to change this automatic reaction by relying on the Holy Spirit?
4. In what ways have you been judged unfairly? How does it feel? Are you judging those who judged you, neglecting to look deeper inside of them?
5. In your faith sharing community or family discussion, take turns in your group naming a false accusation that caused suffering, followed by other members describing the goodness that the accusers were too blind to see. (This last part is very important – it is Jesus providing healing!)