

Gospel Reflection by Fr. John —

In this weekend's Gospel, the man born blind rejoiced when Jesus healed him. He rejoiced because now he had the fullness of vision. Jesus made it possible for him to see as God sees. But before this healing, the blind man actually learned a lot about seeing as God sees – through his blindness, he could “see” with his heart. God doesn't see as humans see. God says so himself to Samuel in our First Reading. God doesn't pick Jesse's oldest and strongest son to be King of Israel; he picks the runt of the litter, the one who looks least prepared for the job, but who is perfect for the job. Because God sees deeper, into the heart, he sees the fullness of potential, the unique beauty of each person's soul he has created. He doesn't get distracted by appearances, as we so often do.

Today's Gospel is not saying: Try to see Jesus in everyone. It's saying step back from that: instead, see people and the world with Jesus's eyes, through God's eyes. If we could put “God glasses” like that, how different our encounters with other people would be. People who don't look, act or think the way we do, would no longer make us feel insecure, they would stimulate us. And we would deal so much better with our own failures and weaknesses, because we wouldn't see them as reasons to condemn ourselves, but as opportunities to love ourselves with an even greater love – because God does. When we see each other as God sees us, we rejoice.

Well, we can put on “God glasses.” They're in our pockets. Take 'em out! We got them at our Baptism. Baptism changes us, changes our identities. The power of Baptism enables us to be imitators of Christ and to see as God sees. Baptism lights up the dark places of our lives and strengthens each of us. That is why we reflect on Baptism so much during Lent. Remember your Baptism and rejoice!

