

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The story of the blind man, described by the Evangelist John, is to some extent very close to us. There are many situations in our lives that happen independently of us, to which we cannot always find an answer or a way to solve them. And then the question often arises in our minds, why did it happen? Who is to blame for this? We ask the symbolic question, "why?" In this way, we look for the cause of this problem, we try to justify ourselves to some extent, to find the root of the problem not in ourselves, but outside ourselves, in another person.

Every Christian, in solving life's problems, should not only ask the question, "why," but also ask another important question, what does this event mean to me? When a person solves a problem by looking for its meaning, then the focus is not on the problem itself and not on himself, but on God. It helps us to find God in this situation, to feel God's presence in our lives. And this creates in the soul the conviction that we are not alone in this situation, but with us is God's providence that creates a sense of confidence, peace, and hope.

Jesus Christ in his answer to the apostles' question, "...who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind" (Jn 9:2), does not point to the human cause of the sick man's illness from birth, saying, "...It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him" (Jn 9:3). The lack of vision, from birth, became an opportunity for the blind to meet and know in their lives the Messiah of Christ, the Son of God, and to testify to people their faith in Him as the expected Savior of the world.

He who seeks not only temporary rest in everyday life, but also God, will understand that nothing in life is accidental or meaningless, but everything has value and significance.

New York's Cardinal Gaze told a story from his life that happened in 1938. A prominent but unbelieving man converted to the Catholic Church. In it he found peace and balance of spirit. Only sorrow depressed his heart. At a young age, when he was still an unbeliever, he was not allowed to baptize his children, and his daughter died without baptism. The matter of saving any child now worried him greatly. With his troubles he went to the cardinal. The cardinal constantly instructed him to pray in this matter. "But what prayer will help here," says the father, "when she died without Holy Baptism." "Pray, because everything is in God's hands," the cardinal insisted. "But even the Lord God can change something here," the father continued. "The Lord God has all present affairs, and even your present prayer was once foreseen by Him, and for its sake your child can be saved," the cardinal explained.

So, the father prayed with great faith every day for the salvation of his child. Some time had passed. One day he came to the cardinal again, but this time he was very cheerful. "What happened?" The cardinal asked. "The Lord God has heard my prayer." My baby is in heaven. I have indisputable proof of this. Here is the metrics of my child's baptism. How did it happen? I met my former servant, a zealous Christian who served us for many years. I told her about my conversion and my longing for my dead daughter, and she revealed to me a secret that no one but her knew about. One day, when no one was home, she secretly took the child to her pastor, and he baptized her. She did not tell anyone about it, because she was afraid of punishment.

Jesus' healing of a man blind from birth reminds us of this simple and important truth that only with Jesus Christ, and in Him, can we find a complete and comprehensive answer to all the questions of our lives, to discover their deep spiritual significance for us.

Dear believers! In the example of the man born blind, who by God's grace, was restored to the ability to see, the Lord tries to convey to us that the blindness of the soul is more terrible than physical blindness. The Lord is the light of the world, so we all need His attention and warmth to varying degrees. We must seek the enlightenment of the soul in order to multiply and strengthen God's presence on earth and in each of us by our faith. And for this you need to constantly worry about your moral condition, to serve as an example of piety for your children, to fight bad habits. And do not forget about constant improvement and sincere prayer.

I wish you all a good day!