

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,**

**March 19, 2023**

*So, a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."*

Those people who see only negativity in others won't allow anyone to live peacefully. Why can't they realize that they are ruining their own lives as well as others? Maybe they find a kind of pleasure in making others' lives horrible. See here how these Pharisees torture this 'blind man' and his family? These Pharisees claim that only they know everything and only they are right and only they are God's people. Can 'God's people' become so cruel? Why can't they rejoice with this man who was once blind and who now sees? I think some people can never be happy for others. We need a kind heart to appreciate the good in others. Some people can't become kind. Don't be one of them.

It is true that these Pharisees did not like Jesus. But why do they take their anger for Jesus out on this poor man and on his family? Please don't do it. Don't redirect our anger on something towards our loved ones; it can destroy a family, it can spoil a relationship.

Some people are jealous and cruel. We see such people in our society. When people get greedy and self-indulgent, they may turn cruel, like these Pharisees. Such people can become criminals one day. Didn't these Pharisees kill Jesus and many of his disciples? So, be careful not to make the Pharisees' mistakes. Why can't we see the best in others and appreciate it?

The blind man's past life was very tough. As he was blind, he had to beg for his daily bread. He lived totally depending on others generosity. Now Jesus has removed his shame. He is healed and very happy now. He can now live without depending on others. Please let him live a happy life. Why do you try to destroy his peace? Don't be so cruel to him. Have you ever experienced blindness in your life? Have you ever seen difficult times? Have you ever lived solely at the mercy of others? If you had lived such a life, you would have let this healed man live a better life. You would have wished him well. Dear Pharisees, you have a problem. Sorry, let me correct it: we have a problem; Who is that 'Blind man' whom I don't let live?

I admire the courage of the 'blind man'. Even though he knew that he would be thrown out of the Synagogue, he didn't condemn Jesus. The Blind man's loyalty to Jesus should be praised. He is a true disciple. How many of us easily reject God in tough times? This 'Blind man' should inspire us to maintain a good relationship with God. Can we keep our Faith alive in good times and in bad times?

This 'Blind man' kept his integrity. The Pharisees and others could not destroy his self-respect and confidence. He not only got back his eyesight, but also an inner strength to fight against evil. He stood firm to truth. He acknowledged Jesus as Son of God against the demands of his opponents and worshiped him. He even challenged the Pharisees to become Jesus' disciples. He shows the courage of a true disciple. How do we react if our faith is threatened? In trying times, do we own the strength to stand firmly in Faith?

See how others treated the 'Blind man' on the greatest day of his life, the day he received his sight. But he fought well and showed the courage to live his faith. Even if he was thrown out of his community, he did not walk away from Jesus. Let us also be strong in our faith. Let us not walk away from Jesus. Be a fighter like this 'Blind man'. When the story ends, who here is 'Blind'?

See the brighter side of life. Be joyful even in small matters. If God is with us nothing is going wrong. Have a smile.

My love and God's blessings,  
Father Sebastian Earthedath, MST