

22nd Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, October 24, 2025 Devotion

Do you see? Of course there are things that you see. Even a blind person sees things. But, do you see? As Scripture reminds us, we look in a mirror dimly, see in part, and therefore only know in part. The perfect has come and we are called to see things clearly. But our vision is clouded by the things that distract us.

No matter your personal circumstances, true wealth, which cannot be taken from you, is yours for the asking. Though poor in body, you are offered the riches of eternity. Such is the gift of faith which is given to those who believe. Our belief is the action based upon the faith we have. We all have faith, but is it directed towards the One through whom all things have their being? This offer, which I speak of week after week, is always before us, but the difficulties of this world cloud our minds and give us dim vision.

A priest is One who intercedes for us. The priest gives us the ability to draw near to God. We know that Scripture tells us that if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. Jesus has come to draw us closer to the Lord. More than dutiful religion, which is fine as far as it goes, we are called to actually live into a new life which Jesus gives by faith.

Hear again what Scripture says about what Jesus has done. We have a great high priest who made the perfect sacrifice. Stop and think about this for a moment. What is a sacrifice? It is the giving of a payment, paying for something which we are unable to pay for ourselves. In simple terms, we have been redeemed. We have been bailed out. From what? We who sin are unable to overcome the sin. That is why we declare each week that we are in bondage to sin. We need to be united with Christ. More than just overcoming the things we see, it is that which is deep within us. It is that which we cannot see – our eyes are dim – and the Lord will spend our lifetime unbinding us. We are in the process of being unbound and receiving sight. We are reminded by Scripture that there are many who, seeing, do not see and hearing, do not hear. We are a part of that ‘many.’ We need the Great High Priest to intercede for us and He does. He who is the author and finisher of our faith is the One upon whom we must depend.

The Great High Priest is able to do once, for all, what needs to be done to open the way of righteousness. This is what Christ has done. When He said, “It is finished,” He was making a statement – and not about Himself. He has done, once for all, what needs to be done to enter us upon the journey and move to the eternal destination.

As I observe the actions of the church, there seem to be many who act as though once we receive forgiveness, that’s it. Go your way and live a good life. But that is not it. I step out into the world and sin comes crashing in. You and I need to be led. We are wandering through the wilderness of this age and the One who knows the way to where we are heading must lead the way. The second part of this – which is where our belief causes us to move – leads us to embark upon the journey, that which we call sanctification. Jesus will make of us children of the Heavenly Father. We are, so to speak, on the journey of becoming.

Jesus gives us His heart. We who have an unclean heart are given the heart of Jesus. But sin of the old Adam seeks to reject the new heart which has been given us. We need continued help to learn how see more clearly and understand that we need what the Lord is doing each and every day. It is a journey with the Savior who will, day by day, do all that is needed to clear our sight so that we may see what is needed more clearly. In simple terms, it is about learning how to completely trust the Lord above all things. And is this not what we learn when we ask the meaning of the first commandment?

You understand how it works and with today's Gospel lesson, we see how this applies in everyday life. Sometimes persistence is required. It is not that Jesus needs this, but that we do in order to move beyond that which would hinder us. Every difficulty in life has a purpose. The Lord has promised this. We see this clearly with the story of Job. The Lord has a purpose for everything. He will bring it all together for good. At first, the blind man is shuffled to the side. It is only through persistence that he shouts out to the Lord in order to receive his sight. Of course the Lord is able, but with great purposefulness, the Lord waits until the perfect time to bring sight to the blind. He does the same for us.

At first, we hear the word through others. We hear, "The Lord is calling you." Many stay in that place. There may be belief, but there is little faith. The Lord will do what He will do, for You and I do not know another's journey in faith. But, we do know about our own condition. Are you one who sits on the sidelines and listens, or has the Lord called you to action? The blind man, steeped in faith sprang up. Listen to the word. He was moved to bring the whole of himself to Jesus. Should it not be the same for you and me? Then see what he did in the presence of Jesus.

First, he calls Jesus his Teacher. Is Jesus your teacher? Do you look to our Lord to actually lead the way of your living? Do you go to Him day and night seeking His guidance? This is important for you and I do not know the way that our lives are to be lived, but He does. There is a reason why Scripture tells us that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Too many in this world, so it seems, act as if they can negotiate with the Lord to have their circumstances improved, but done without any change of heart. Without a change of heart, it is just more opportunity to continue in sin, albeit in more comfortable circumstances.

Coming to Jesus, He acknowledged that Jesus was His teacher and with his request, that Jesus was able to do what he asked. "My teacher, let me see again." He was not demanding, saying, "Give me sight." He was asking, "Let me see." Jesus responds, "You have trusted me, no go your way, for by faith you have been healed." But this is not the end of the matter. In our have-it-now instant gratification society, we often think the means to the end is what it is all about.

I cannot help but think that not only did this man receive the ability to see as you and I see, but also that, through faith, he saw life in a whole new way. Seeing is not just about what is physical, but also about the truth of reality. Many, who say they see, are blind.

God is the Creator of all things. Only by His will are all things established and sustained. He is the source from which all things come. Only in Him do we breathe, think, and have our being. When our eyes are opened to the reality of eternity we see that only in the Lord do we have life. More than that, it is only in Him that we have our being. This age is so steeped in rebellion against that idea that, like Job, we actually think we can negotiate our way through life. That is nothing less than pretense. What do I know? I only know what I can see. How do I see? Too often, it is only what is in front and around me. Do I see things that the Lord would have me see? Do I walk by the sight He gives, or by the limited physical sight of this world?

The blind beggar received sight and he followed Jesus. Where else can we go, for Jesus is the One who gives the words of eternal life? Only in and through what our Savior does can we see the road ahead. We walk in the darkness of this age, but the light of Christ is shining in the darkness of this world. Come to Jesus and say, "Teacher, teach me and help me to see things as they are. Hear Jesus say to you, "Go." Go into the world with me by your side and tell others what you see. You have been given sight by faith. Be not unseeing, but seeing! Amen.

