

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Samuel in the first reading was sent to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem to anoint one of his sons as a king. Samuel based his selection of the right candidate on how he saw things. He based his standards on appearance. God, then, told him: **“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.”**

Samuel, I will say, was not open to God’s inspiration that went beyond his preconceptions. That is, he did not recognize the role of God’s transforming power in the chosen candidate.

In choosing David, an unimportant shepherd-boy, God transformed his life. As a king, David was to lead and direct the people to have transformed lives; to live as a people of God.

As God, through Samuel, transformed the life of David in the first reading, so in the gospel reading, the man called Jesus transformed the life of a man born blind. Jesus changed the blind beggar’s life by giving him his eye-sight and the light of faith. His transformation like that of David was not without ‘drama’.

Before his healing he needed to be receptive to Jesus’ word. He had no idea as to the outcome of his obedience when Jesus sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash his face. He went and came back transformed; He was able to see. Then, after the restoration of his sight he underwent a series of interrogations before he had what I will term ‘a spiritual transformation’; a light of faith. Each moment brought him to a deeper knowledge of Jesus, his source of transformation.

He began by saying that the man Jesus was a prophet. Then, he said we knew that God did not listen to sinners but if one was devout and did his will, he listened to him. This led him to say that Jesus was from God. The answer angered the Pharisees to the extent that they threw him out.

When they drove him away from the synagogue Jesus went in search of him and the conversation between him and Jesus led to his complete faith in Jesus. He had now the gift of sight and the gift of faith.

God, by calling us to be Christians, has transformed our lives. He has led us into the radiance of the faith. He expects us to allow the radiance of the faith to help us to live as the people of light; to go beyond our preconceptions.

To do this, St Paul in the second reading invites us to stay awake to our Christian vocation, arise from the dead.

In lent the Church, in a special way, invites us to arise from the dead and stay awake to our Christian vocation.

We are in the fourth week of this season of grace. Let us continue to engage in a more active prayer life and a more demonstrative involvement of the works of penance and mercy. Let us continue to renew our commitment to our Christian vocation and allow God to work through us to transform the lives of others and the Church.

We have to do the works of the one who sent us while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.