

Week 4: Seeing things Differently



The man born blind said:
"I only know that I was blind and now I can see."

John 9:25

*Read the full Gospel
John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17,
34-38*

In the story of the man born blind, the healing of his sight, though amazing, is eclipsed by a far greater blindness which the man experiences in his own community.

Blind spots endure in our society. Some examples include the struggle to respect and fully embrace First Nation people, refugees, women's equality, LGBTQIA+ equality, and those living with disability.

Intentional disciples can become blind to the One we are called to follow. We make up a Jesus who judges people, and only wants to welcome those whom we accept. However, Jesus is radically inclusive. He eats with so-called sinners, being one with them, embracing them as family, affirming their goodness. Whether at Mass, in our own family and friendship circles, or in our workplaces, we all can experience blind spots. Who do we exclude because they think differently, behave differently, or look different?

How do we address the reality that people still share how they are made to feel unwelcome because church laws outweigh the free offer of love and acceptance to all? A way forward is to imitate Jesus. He sat with people, shared a meal, and became friends with those whom he had no business being friends with. He asked questions and sought to understand. Yes, there are times Jesus invites people to "sin no more", yet this seems to be more about living authentically in alignment with your own self, with God, and with one another. Jesus seems to reserve his strongest criticisms against those who judge others, who are hypocritical, who are selfish, and who do not forgive.

May we continue to have our blindness healed, to see people not as strangers, but as friends and family, united by the love in which God holds us all.

For Reflection

What are some ways we can strengthen our welcome and inclusion of one another, especially those who find themselves marginalised?