

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

God's Works Revealed in You

by Anna Fitch Courie

Over the course of history, it has been the nature of human beings to treat those with disease, disability, or infirmity as “unclean” or “less-than” in the sight of society. Our society has also judged others by their afflictions, believing, as the disciples did in John, that these people must have done something bad to deserve the hardships they have to endure.

Even today, we have a tendency to collectively think that something is “less-than” about a person with disease or disability, that they, or their family, did something wrong and they somehow deserve their “punishment.” But John comes in with blazing testimony that these judgements could not be further from the truth.

The disciples asked Jesus who sinned, the blind man or his parents, so that he deserved to be blind. And Jesus responds, “[Neither!] ... he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him (John 9:1-24).” This means that each and every one of us can be a vessel through which God works, *despite* or *because* of the ways in which we are broken.

It is not a coincidence that the Bible describes people's encounters with God as causing them to shine. When God touches us, like the blind man, we are transformed into shining beacons of God's grace, mercy, and love. No matter what illness, disease, disability, injury we suffer, or sin we have committed, God's works can be revealed through each one of us.

All of us play an important part in God's amazing plan, but it takes courage to say “yes” to God's invitation. It takes courage to allow God to work through us and not be worried about what the world thinks. It takes being willing to be driven away, just as the blind man, and continuing to preach the good works of God. It takes discipline, dedication, and a commitment that, no matter how many times we get beaten down, we will get back up to allow God's work to be revealed in us.

