

Reflection: Ember Friday, 4th December 2020

Jesus heals these two blind men who call on him in his Messianic title, Son of David. They ask for mercy, but he asks them if they believe he is able to heal them. They affirm that they believe he can heal them. This is not wishful thinking, a shot in the dark, a lottery ticket, a wild card, a one in a million fluke. No, because they are not speaking just to please him or with a sort of hope against hope. They are blind physically, but are fully sighted spiritually. Their speech gives us the clue. That title tells you the story. Son of David. These two believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and knowing that he is the Messiah means that he must fulfil the prophetic witness, and specifically here the promise of Isaiah that the eyes of the blind shall be opened.

No, it isn't a random sort of belief. It is not just getting caught up enthusiastically in the excitement of a revival tent meeting. No. This is very calculated, very astute. Before they have uttered a word, they believe. This is what Jesus sees in them. This is why they are healed. They becoming woven into the fabric of the Christ-story. They are witnesses of the Advent of God's presence among us - Emmanuel. Jesus warns them to be quiet about it, but they cannot contain themselves. Jesus the Truth has confirmed his identity in the healing, he is truly the One who is to Come. All that remains thereafter is thanks and the praise of God.

Where are our blindspots? In what ways are our eyes closed? Have we really seen who Jesus is? Do we believe that he is able to heal us of our own infirmities? The readings today draw us toward trust and confidence in Jesus, and also to belief in his being the Messiah, the Christ who is to come. We, like the blind men, must trust in him, must believe in his ability to heal, to make us whole. We have to lay aside what we think we see and trust in how God sees. This is hard to do sometimes, especially when we want to do our own thing for ourselves and not for God, even when we think we are doing God's work. We need humility to recognise our own blindnesses to God's light, to God's plans, to his healing going on in us. These two blind men are inspirations for us, because they saw the Messiah, even when they were still blind, and they believed, before any proof or experience of healing had happened. That is the attitude of faith that we need, especially when things look bleak, or we can not seem to see the way forward. We must trust in Jesus, the merciful Son of David. This is the message of the Divine Mercy devotion. It is the aim of the Gospel for us to say: "Jesus, I trust in you." He is the One who did indeed open the eyes of the blind, and he can open our eyes right now. So let our prayer be: "Lord Jesus, I trust in you, have mercy on me, that I might see."