

## God Calls Out of Darkness

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God has a great purpose for us and that is why He cannot leave us to wallow in ignorance. He wants us to come out of darkness and worship Him. In every encounter in the Eucharist, we should experience the love of God that reaches out to us.

- This is the reason why the Church encourages that the Mass should be celebrated with reverence so that the people can have a great sense of worship.
- **1Peter 2:9**; “But you are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises’ of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”
- **Isaiah 43:20-21**; “Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.”
- **Malachi 3:17**; “And they shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, my own special possession, on the day I take action. And I will have compassion on them, as a man has compassion on his son who serves him.”
- After every encounter with God, a new life is born, the light of God should reveal something new to us about ourselves. The light of God that we carry, helps us from stumbling in darkness.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14; St Paul reminds us of who we are in the Lord after we have been redeemed.

- “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”
- We should do things proper to our status in the world. We should walk like people in the light. We should not allow ourselves to be ruled by the ignorant behaviors of the world.
- “Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them ... everything exposed by the light becomes visible...”
- We should be careful not to allow ignorance of the truth to deprive us of the blessings of God.

Gospel: John 9:1-41; this is the story of Jesus healing a man who was born blind. The whole thing started with a question by His disciples as to whose fault why this man was born blind.

- Jesus responded by letting us know that this is a human condition which can come with nature. However, the action of Jesus at healing the man, explains our need for a spiritual healing.
- The healing of the blind man reminds us of the action of God at creation in the book of Genesis.

- Genesis 2:7; "... the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being."
- The healing of this man, demonstrates to us that Jesus is God. It is only God who used the clay and breath to create man. It is only God who can say, 'Let there be and it will come into being.' It is only in God that there can be both life and light.
- Jesus scattered the darkness that had overwhelmed this man from the time he was born.
- In darkness, we are confronted easily by the fear of the unknown. Jesus dispelled this fear by making this man to see light and know his environment. Jesus restored to the man his dignity.
- It is very important to know that this action, is more for the people around to see the power of God and know Jesus - the Messiah.

As children of God, we need to ask our selves in what way do we need the light of Christ? Which part of me needs spiritually healing? What is in me that is making me not see the glory of God that surrounds me?

- How can we receive the grace of God in our life? Sin makes us spiritually blind, but redemption is brought by Christ, restores us to the grace of God and brings us back to light.
- We are God's chosen people, He does not us to die in sin. He has given us the gift of the Savior. May the sacrifices we are making during this special season of Lent, help us to reap the fruits of redemption. Amen.