

7th Sunday After Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our salvation is accomplished by the mysterious encounter of God's grace and our own will, which is directed to God. Today's passage, from the Holy Gospel of the Apostle Matthew, shows the blessed moment in the lives of two blind men what they had been waiting for their whole life. An unforgettable encounter with the Savior changed their future. We have probably all seen people with these health problems on the streets of our cities or villages many times. It is not entirely clear to us how a person suffers from such restrictions in their everyday life.

The blind men heard the noise of the crowd, which quite emotionally discussed the next miracle of the Savior. When Jesus returned from the centurion's house, He heard the cry of the two blind men. They did not complain about their misfortune, nor did they demand that their sight be restored, but they asked, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." Without seeing Him physically, they felt that there was great power in Him. Their request for simple attention from the Savior could drastically change them. They did not ask out of sorrow or suffering, or even more out of their blindness. These people are blind with their eyes, but see with their souls, they themselves took part in their healing.

Our eyes are a wonderful and perhaps the most necessary sense organ in our body, but they serve us only during our earthly journey, and our soul is spiritual, eternal eyes. "...So, if your eye is sound," says the Savior, "your whole body will be full of light" (Matthew 6:22).

What is spiritual blindness? These are our sins, which we do not notice and do not even consider as our sins. Is not our pride spiritual blindness, hatred, envy, heartlessness, ruthlessness, deceit and malice, and all sorts of slander, are they not all spiritual blindness? As a dark cloud obscures the sun and prevents us from seeing its rays, so spiritual blindness obscures our souls and prevents us from seeing every one ray of true Light, Christ our God, which enlightens and sanctifies every person who comes into the world.

The Church Fathers, preaching about miraculous healing in this Gospel story, said that people usually follow the "dogmatic" faith and rarely the living faith in their lives. That is why the Lord asks the blind, do you believe that I can heal you? Do you profess your faith with your heart or mind? Living faith is acquired through the feat of constant prayer and purification of the heart. That is why so many people, unaware of these things in the spiritual life, spend their whole lives waiting for a miracle, doing nothing for their part. One of the fathers said that a stagnant lake, if not cleaned, gradually overgrows and becomes a swamp, just as a lazy soul loses everything alive and dies. The industrious soul is like a small stream that gradually turns into a full-flowing, large river, which overcomes all obstacles in its path in order to connect with its last goal - the sea or the ocean. In a spiritual sense, it is important for every Christian to go through all earthly life and prepare with dignity to enter into a happy Eternity.

Imagine yourself in the place of God in a poor country, without medicine, legal rights, hungry, wild, fierce, in an unfriendly land, where everyone is for himself, and a sea of sick people. You walk in the midst of this sea of people's grief. You can give everyone health, satiety, and prosperity, but you understand that satiety and prosperity will cause even more resentment and will be the cause of the defect. Unfortunately, Hemingway was right, "Give a person what he needs - and he will want comfort. Provide her with amenities - she will strive for luxury. Give her luxury - she will start sighing for the refined. Let her get the exquisite - she will demand madness. Give her everything she wants - she will complain that she was deceived and that she didn't get what she wanted."

Dear believers! The lesson of this story is heartfelt sensitivity. Christ walked in the midst of God's bewildered people. He warmed their spirit and admonished them with words and miracles. And we, living in the midst of a sea of unhappy people, carry in ourselves the fullness of joy and grace, have no right to allow our hearts to be petrified.

A true Christian is visible to the naked eye. They shine. Such a person, overwhelmed with happiness, wants to share them. If we are not sensitive, blind and narcissistic, and we do not care about the unfortunate who suffer around us, then we are anyone, but not Christians.

Reverend Siluan said of his love for people: "I am old, and I am waiting for death, and I am writing the truth out of love for the people that my soul longs for. Perhaps at least one soul will be saved; and for her I will thank God; but my heart aches for the whole world, and I pray, and I shed tears for the whole world, that all may repent and know God, and live in love, and enjoy freedom in God."