

Two Sides of the Coin (30th Sunday)

(Mark 10: 46-52)

I would like to ask you about your home-work from last week ! Do you even remember what it was ? It was pretty important to me and it certainly was a struggle throughout the week. The Question was :

“ In my Life Experience at the present time, with all of my Conditioning, all my Instruction, all of my Education, and all of my Life-Experience, am I more likely to :

Transform suffering in my life or am I more likely to

Transfer that suffering.

This is based on a premise that there are only two ways that individuals deal with pain and Suffering in life. It is a very profound Truth.

Look around you and you will see it very clearly. Are people you know, yourself, your family members, your church members, your neighbors, your co-workers, are they Transforming Pain in their lives or are they

Transferring it putting it on others ... blaming others. !

In short if I am Transforming Pain/Suffering in my life it is involving significant interior work (work within myself) ! If I am Transferring Pain/Suffering it is showing up in a lot of external work Blaming someone Else If it weren't for them, for him, for her, that group, that body, that organization, Sometimes even God himself Then I wouldn't be feeling this way.

There are only two ways of dealing with Pain/ Suffering in my life and the bottom line is if I don't work on Transforming it I will most assuredly Transfer it ...Transmit it to others Usually to those closest to us: our family, our neighbors, our church group, our coworkers, and invariably, the most vulnerable of all, our children.

It is a great thing to share our pain and suffering with our friends, our coworkers, our family, but only if we are Truly seeking resolution. If we are just looking for sympathy, it is likely there will not be a great outcome.

I had a fine man tell me only this week “When I saw my young son acting out my own angry behavior, I was absolutely shocked I knew I had transmitted it Now I realized I need to Transform it”. I apologized to him and made a commitment to him that I would really try to Transform my angry behavior. “You see I was listening” to what you have been saying, he said. That’s the kind of action that I am talking about.

If we cannot find a way to make our wounds into sacred wounds, we will inevitably become cynical, negative, or bitter. We will imprison ourselves in a prison not created by others, but created by ourselves ! So Long as there is someone else to blame I will never be free from that prison That Blindness.

Here is a great piece of Wisdom :

We shouldn't try to get rid of our own pain until we've learned what it has to teach us. When we can hold that pain and not transmit it to others we are in a very sacred place And I assure He is there with usHe is God suffering with us in Jesus Christ Hanging on that Cross with us Innocent though he was !

I want to cry out "If I am innocent then why do I need to suffer" can you answer that Take a Good look behind me (The Crucifix) That is precisely what that is about Innocent Suffering.

Grappling with that reality we are opening ourselves to really learning and breaking through to a much deeper level of Faith and Consciousness !

If one side of the coin is Joy then most assuredly Pain/ Suffering is the other-side.

So now you may ask : what does all of this have to do with the Gospel and the Blind man Bartimaeus well here it is.

This is a wonderful powerful story about where Jesus unleashes his powerful work among his people. We could so easily hear this gospel and simply say "I am not blind, in fact I have 20/20 vision or close to it, so there is nothing in it for me !

Wow that that would be to my own great detriment as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Steve Wonder, that amazingly gifted artist, was once asked by a friend

“Steve, with all this wonderful new technology available in the world and especially in optometry, wouldn't it be wonderful if they could restore your sight”

Stevie's response :

There are a whole lot of people who have use of both eyes that are more blind than I !

Wow what an understanding what a truth !

So the Parable become a very powerful tool : Bartimaeus was sitting on the roadside calling out to Jesus as he passed byThe crowd is telling him “oh be quiet, you are annoying me, But he kept calling out all the more Jesus hears him. How important is that ? Jesus hears him HE hears you and I also. Notice what happens next I think it is an extraordinary significant detail :

“He threw aside his cloak” How important is that little detailHe let go of his ‘Security Blanket’

Can I choose to let go of my ‘Security Blanket’. And come to Him ! What is that security blanket that I may need to let go of ? Am I willing to let go of it ? Or am I afraid it will bring too much suffering / pain ?

NEXT. Jesus asks :

“What do you want me to do for you ?” It is an extremely important question in the gospel It comes up again and again in peoples encounter with Jesus Jesus is not going to make up our mind for us He is not going to force anything on us He wants us to speak loudly and clearly to Him He wants us to know and to

identify what it is we really seek Bartimaeus answered
loud and clear

“Master I want to SEE”. And so it was !

This week for homework I would like you and I to consider

What is my chief Blindness ? My Great Blindness !

Where is it most active and alive in my life ? Do I really
desire for the Master to heal my Blindness ?

I will ask you about it next week as we reflect on the
Greatest Commandment.