

8 OTC.19; Sirach 27:4-7; 1Cor 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45; *Log-in-Eye Disease!*

It has been said, “*Fools and fanatics are always certain of themselves,*

... and wiser people are full of doubts.” – Bertrand Russell

Jesus has said, “*Remove the wooden beam from your eye first.*” -Luke 6:42

Both are talking about “*log-in-eye disease*”. This odd disease allows people to think they see clearly when, in fact, they see nothing. **Pope Francis said,**

“It’s easy to point a finger at other people’s faults and shortcomings,

... but we must learn to put ourselves in the other person’s shoes.”

We, my friends, are on a journey from hypocrisy to authentic living.

We are all in wearing the SAME shoes!

What are **WE** to do? ... No worries Jesus is here for us!

Jesus gives us a sayings-parable to explore, **1. “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? 2. (key) No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like the teacher. 3. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive**

... the wooden beam in your own....”

Now for a little technical interpretation. *Italian Scripture scholar Fr. Silvano Fausti tells us that the sayings-parable we hear today elucidates the command of Jesus in Luke 6:36, “*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*”

This command interprets the sayings-parable.

With a little sparkle of humor about *splinters and logs* Jesus has a point to make while we struggle to understand him. Fr. Fausti suggests that the blind guides to whom Jesus refers are the leaders who don’t know their own need for mercy.

Those who have not experienced mercy, cannot act with mercy.

Here’s the key. This passage uses a typical “sandwich” technique in which Jesus says two things about seeing & between them talks about disciples and teachers.

In this technique, **the middle idea is the key (2)**, & the other two illuminate it. *The middle idea here has to do with disciples learning from the master in order to slowly become like the master.* That leads us to look at the mercy with which Jesus

called people ... *beyond their faults*. Whether with humor, compassion or harsh sayings, **Jesus called people forth with the intent to open them up ... to new possibilities.**

Jesus uses humor to point the craziness of the situation. The Blind leading the blind fall into a pit & a person with something protruding from their eye cannot come close enough to another nor see the other clearly enough to help. **Therein lies a key dimension of the problem.** The person with *a beam in the eye* does not see another clearly; only a person who looks on another

... with the *clarity of compassion* has what is necessary to help the other grow.

(*Celebration, 03/03/2019; 8 OTC)

2 People who have admitted their own sinfulness & have grasped the saving hand that helped them *move forward* are the ones who can help another. They know

... **what it feels like to have a blinding beam removed from their eye.**

In his book about addictions, *Breathing Under Water*, Fr. Richard Rohr speaks of something like this when he says: “*God seems to have hidden holiness and wholeness in a secret place where only the humble will find it.*” This is something that people discover in **12-step groups** or from reading the autobiographies of the saints. **It seems that the closer people get to God, the humbler they become.**

A famous rabbi told the following story to his followers.

He said, ‘When I was young I decided to improve the world. *But then* I discovered that the world was vast. I had better begin with a definite place. So I decided to improve my native country. *But then* I realized the country too is very big. So I decided to improve my own town I lived in. *But that* too was very large. I decided then to improve my street I lived on. *But there* were where a huge number of house son it. So I decided to improve the house I lived in. *But as* I have a large family, that too proved beyond me. *Finally, I decided I had better begin with myself.*’

‘Have you succeeded in that?’ one of his followers asked.

‘I’m still working on it,’ replied the rabbi.

When people complain about what is wrong with the world, they are usually blaming others. They should look at themselves first. That way, they will know they are making a difference in ... at least one life.

We can’t take anyone farther than we’ve gone ourselves.

(New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, F. McCarthy)

You see *pseudo-religion* which Jesus calls hypocrisy, is forever trying to make other people better. *True-religion* tries to make yourself better. If someone wants to be the greatest possible value to their fellow creatures, let them begin the solitary task of perfecting themselves **FIRST**.

Jesus is our ideal guide. “Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness, ... but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Jesus didn't promise to give anyone perfect knowledge or judgment, only the *power to forgive without limits*

– a faculty that presumes that we ALL make a good share of mistakes!!!

At this Liturgy of Mercy, we stand on the edge of the Lenten Season. Maybe we need a *little saw dust* in our pockets to remind us to try to be like Jesus, to be like the God. Only God sees the BIG PICTURE and treats us with unending patience and mercy. May we seek not to condemn and over-advise, but to understand and empathize. The cure for “*log-in-eye disease*” is love and humility.

Go ahead, be like God, be Merciful, open new possibilities in this World!