

**“There’s more here than meets the eye.”** That is an expression we all, no doubt, have uttered at one time or another in our lives. Perhaps we met someone and thought we knew them, only to discover there’s more here than meets the eye. Or maybe we were looking at homes and saw a home from the outside that just appeared dazzling; only to find thereafter that there’s more than meets the eye. Or maybe there was a job position that we were attracted to and over time we got the job and soon realized that it was not for us. Needless to say, there’s more here than meets the eye.

The Word of God today can best be captured with this phrase, **“There’s more here than meets the eye.”** In the first reading, from the book of Samuel, we hear one of the most famous lines in the scriptures, **“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.”** To illustrate this point there is the famous story of Samuel choosing a king. God sends him to see Jesse of Bethlehem, who has a number of sons. Samuel is to choose a king from among these sons. When all is said and done, however, it is the youngest and the most unlikely who is chosen to be king. He is anointed and in the end it’s obvious that there’s more here than meets the eye.

The Gospel, meanwhile, tells the story of the man born blind. His situation leads the disciples to ask Jesus, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”** Jesus responds by saying, **“Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.”** Obviously there’s more here than meets the eye.

This theme continues to be developed within this long passage. When the Pharisees encounter the man born blind, and now are told that he can see, they say of Jesus, **“This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.”** Obviously, once again, there is more here than meets the eye.

Then after hearing the exchange between Jesus and the man born blind, some of the Pharisees ask, **“Surely we are not blind, are we?”** Jesus then responds to them saying, **“If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying ‘we see’, so your sin remains.”** Once again, there is more here than meets the eye.

In our own lives, there is always more than meets the eye, for we do not see as God sees. Thank God for that. Imagine if we were to be the judge and jury for one another. I don’t think we would be as merciful and compassionate, given our human tendency to judge and criticize. Suffice to say, our vision of another is often so superficial and unfair, and therefore, blind, because it’s all rooted in appearance. But there is always more than meets the eye. God looks at the heart and what is beyond the vision of the human eye.

Perhaps the greatest blind spot in our lives centers on the view of ourselves and the thought that we are not sinners. And yet, in our blindness, we are all sinners, in need of God’s love and mercy and forgiveness. All of this is afforded to us in and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year A

**In that moment of confession, we acknowledge our sinfulness and God forgives and forgets. What is more, God, in his goodness, looks at our failures, foibles, and faults, and loves us. Because you see, God does not look at our appearance but into our hearts. And he loves us not for what we are, but for who we can become. If only we could see one another through God's eyes, what a beautiful place the world would be. How blessed are those who can see through God's eyes.**

**Every now and then we meet someone in life who sees through God's eyes. In our parish there is a little girl named Leanne, she is blind, but she sees through God's eyes. Last week as she and her father were leaving Church he gave me a copy of her book, entitled *Seeing Through God's Eyes*. That's right, her book, she co-authored it with a blind boy named Zachary.**

**Some may look at Leanne and Zachary and wonder, why are they blind? In the spirit of today's Gospel, I think it's so that the works of God may be made visible through them. They may be physically blind, but they see life better than any of us because they see through God's eyes. And that is cause to say, "There is more here than meets the eye."**