

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Ask God for Light**    First Week of Advent    Friday, December 5, 2014    8:15 AM  
Is 29:17-24; **Mt 9:27-31** (When we can see, then we can live a really noble, dignified, spiritual, holy life, and a happy life.)

Today's gospel lesson is about the fruit of faith. **Faith is supposed to bring about a change. Here for the two blind men, their eyes were healed.** Jesus touched their eyes; there was something wrong apparently with their organs. But we know that even perfect eyes, 20/20 vision, are no good in total darkness. **Eyes are light sensitive.** They bear light and, you might say, on the wings of light they bring the images of the world around us into our brains, which in an extraordinary way produce this picture of the world that we see.

Now that's obviously not all there is, all there is isn't simply the world that we see with our eyes; there is what's behind that. And we see that also through light. **Light has to reach our inner vision,** or we won't see anything. What we are living with today in our world so often is people who just don't see anything besides the world around them; they don't see anything deeper. **Faith will lead to seeing something deeper.** It isn't that faith is a response to seeing something deeper. That was the problem with the Pharisees who always wanted to see a sign. "Show us a sign, then we will believe." Wrong order! **First you believe, then you will see.** That's what this is about. First you believe. First you put your trust in God, then you will begin to see. So people who don't see, don't see because they don't believe.

Here we have to be very clear; **belief is really trust in the power of God to give light.** It's not just believing something on a piece of paper, reading the Creed, for example. That's just a summary. That's a summary of the various aspects of our belief in Christ and who he was and what he did, but that isn't the essence of faith. Faith isn't what we gain from the catechism. That's an explanation of all kinds of different aspects of the life of God, the Gospel of God, and so on. Faith ultimately is this dependence, this willing dependence, **this**

**chosen dependance upon God to provide light.** And when we have that, then we can see. **And when we can see, then we can live a really noble, dignified, spiritual, holy life, and a happy life.** That's the whole goal ultimately, a happy life, a life on this planet that is happy, to some degree, because, to some degree, it shares in the godliness of God, the holiness of God, the goodness of God, and then happy eternally, perfectly and infinitely happy. That's the goal. It all depends on our choosing to ask God for light.