

Lent Day 24
Tuesday March 8, 2016

Reading: Mark 8.14-26

Reflection

Patience is a virtue, but virtues are in short supply these days. We live in a culture of instant everything. Our credit debt is through the roof because we have left the notion of going without if we cannot afford it in the past. We demand pleasure and happiness for ourselves without delay and anyone who suggests we should be denied it as villainous. We have ceased to be patient and we do not have patience for process.

That's exactly what we are faced with in this passage. We can get all tied up because Jesus doesn't heal this blind man in one shot. Why would he have to do it in two stages? Because the healing of the blind man is tied to the blindness of the disciples. They see but only in part. Their sight will be restored but in process, not instantly. Jesus and the disciples will need to be patient on their journey together.

The same is true of us. We want an instant spirituality. We want to come to Jesus, declare him as lord and then have everything in our lives put right instantly. We want all those besetting sins to be in our past. We want to be supermen and women who can overcome Satan and his temptations without effort. But what we experience is that we have been healed in part and need to still be healed in completion. Not a great thing for a culture which has put aside patience as a virtue. We don't have the patience for this healing.

That is why the disciples are called disciples. We need to recover that core identity because at its core discipleship is about discipline. Discipline to not only believe but to obey. To endure the lifelong process of being healed, of being made whole. It involves the daily submission of our will to God's will and regaining sight. It is the recovery of virtue and perhaps it starts with patience.

Prayer

God of the ages, work in us this discipline and virtue. Give us the eyes to see the long road of discipleship and the will to walk it with you. Amen.