



Daily Reflections

February 20, 2019

Scripture

Mark 8: 22-26

When Jesus and his disciples arrived at Bethsaida, people brought to him a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes he laid his hands on the man and asked, "Do you see anything?"

Looking up the man replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking." Then he laid hands on the man's eyes a second time and he saw clearly; his sight was restored and he could see everything distinctly. Then he sent him home and said, "Do not even go into the village."

Our Scripture Reflection

Only Mark records the wonderful miracle story of Jesus' healing of a blind man in two applications. Why two? Not because of anything lacking on Jesus' part. Jesus shows us that His healing Grace takes time. This story makes an important point about Christian conversion. Coming to faith is a process with fits and starts, ups and downs...and even side movements. But Grace never fails. Jesus wants our salvation. Coming to faith, genuine faith requires effort, patience and perseverance.

Food for your Journey

Dom Helder Camara, author of *The Conversion of a Bishop* (London: Collins Press, 1977), cites a theoretical conversation between St. Francis of Assisi and a brother monk as one of his favorite stories: "One day St. Francis and Brother Leo were out walking together. Suddenly Brother Leo called out, 'Brother Francis!' 'Yes, I am Brother Francis,' came the reply. 'Be careful, Brother Francis! People are saying remarkable things about you! Be careful!' And Francis of Assisi replied, 'My friend, pray to the Lord that I may succeed in becoming what people think I am' " (p. 216).

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You sent Your Son Jesus into this world to save me from the power of sin and evil. And though I struggle at times, I know Your Grace is always available to me to help me through the difficult times. Keep me faithful and strong, Lord. Amen