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## THE CURING OF THE BLIND MAN IN JERICHO

### Anagogical interpretation

As the Lord was approaching Jerusalem and was already in Jericho he found a blind beggar, whom He healed, rewarding his great faith. One is able to approach also this wondrous and very didactic event with the anagogical method. We will also use this method now interpreting today's Gospel passage.

Blind is every person who lives far from Christ, either due to his disbelief, or on account of his sins and his passions. Such a person is surrounded by darkness, without knowing either who the true God is, or what is the meaning of life, or why he came into this world, nor where he will proceed after his death. He lives in misfortune and seeks a little consolation from other people, working in vainglory, in people pleasing, in temporal joys and pleasures.

The Lord Jesus however doesn't leave any person abandoned. At a certain moment of his life He will pass nearby him. As God and Savior He makes the first step. He seeks the person, but in a discreet manner. He gives him the opportunity to sense His presence and to be informed by the others related to His person and His world saving work. It is left to the person however if subsequently he will call upon the name of the Lord with faith or if he will show in difference to Him.

If the person turns to the Lord with faith and seeks His mercy, and very often the following unexpected thing happens. Those people up to then were giving them some consolation, now struggle in a seemingly inexplicable manner, to make him keep silent. Here a real brave train of thought is necessary and the person's depth and firmness of faith is tested. The more the others prevent the faithful and brave person, he, with all the greater drive seeks the Lord.

### God is a person

After a person's free will is tested, Jesus calls him near Him, in order to heal him and make him firm with His grace. This detail which the gospel gives us is very important: "while Jesus having stood, he commanded him to be brought to him", in other words, after Jesus stood, He commanded

that they lead the blind fellow to him. God is not forced. Nor does it resemble an object or objective knowledge which, after research it, we find it and we make it our possession. God is a person. He is that person from whom everything was created and in whom everything is supported. In order for us to approach Him and to come to know Him, of course our own free will and faith is necessary. However only then will we come to know Him, when He with His omniscience judges that it is the appropriate moment, in order for Him to reveal Himself to us. So for this reason, if we want to speak precisely, we can say that we do not know God, but rather He knows and loves us (see Gal. 4:9) and He reveals Himself, when He finds inside us the appropriate presuppositions. Thus, we may think that we believe in Christ and we love Him, but He, as God, who knows the secrets of men's hearts, may not accept us and may not reveal Himself to us, because He sees that our heart is not really straight towards Him.

But even when the Lord approves our disposition and approaches us with His grace, again He never circumvents our freedom. He gives us as much grace, as our free will accepts. So for this reason when the blind man approached the Lord, He did not immediately heal him, but He first asked him what he wants Him to do for him. And only when the blind man answered that he longs to obtain his sight, the Lord offered him his direct cure.

### **The results of grace**

The blind man didn't show ungratefulness to Jesus. After the cure he followed Him glorifying God. Likewise, a clear proof about someone that the grace of God has been made firm inside him and his spiritual sicknesses have been cured, is that he follows Christ in all his thoughts, words and deeds and continually glorifies God with his life. One such person leads those around him also to glorify God. Because, whereas in the beginning of the spiritual struggle the other people are presented as the opponents of him who is repenting, if he remains firm in his repentance and obtains divine grace, then the former enemies and opponents, now become his communicants in glorifying God.

Let us also follow the example of this blind man in our life. Let us believe with our whole heart in the Lord, let us seek from Him the cure of our passions, and then through our life we will preach Christ and will urge all people to glorify the only true God.

Archim. P. K.