

Our readings this week all focus on the idea of vision or perspective. The choosing and anointing of the future King David in our first reading clearly spells it out, we judge by what we can witness, God judges by the qualities of the heart and mind that are beyond our ability to know. When I was in the seminary at times someone would discern that the priesthood was not for him; this is a natural part of the process, however, sometimes I would ask, why him, he would make a way better priest than I. But it is God's choice and His invitation,

Another way God's vision is different from our own is time. God exists outside of time, every moment from God's perspective is now. We are obviously bound to linear time. God's gaze is wider and encompasses our own future. One might ask, do we truly have free will then? Yes, God knowing what we will choose does not negate the fact that we choose it.

Related to time but slightly different is the idea of temporal retribution and this is also presented in our readings this weekend. Temporal retribution means that God rewards or punishes us in time. For example, live a good life and have a mansion, live a naughty life and get cancer. The serious sins of our parents we are then born blind. Obviously, we do not believe this, although in our search for meaning sometimes this answer is the one we still grasp for, or the only one within reach. We have to divorce ourselves from the notion that God exists to punish or reward us. It is love and meaning He wants for our life and how we respond to that love and meaning is the point.

When it comes to vision, we have a choice to make. Spiritually we are not blind, if you are reading this, or coming to Mass, you are gaining insight into God's perspective. We do have a choice to make when it comes to being challenged by God. When He illuminates our mind to see that something in your life needs to change, we either listen or change that behavior or relationship, or we choose to ignore it. Christ points out to the Pharisee at the end of the Gospel, choosing something different than God's perspective is not blindness, it is rebellion.

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you!

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