



# *“Listen to the voice of our people”*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*“The blind man of the Gospel: from object to subject”*

*The Gospel of this Sunday presents us with a moving character: a man blind from birth. Like other characters in the Gospel, we do not know his name. His life is marked by exclusion. His blindness has led him to live by begging and to bear the judgment of his time: who sinned, he or his parents, that he was born this way?*

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Readings:  
 Gospel: John 9:1-41  
 First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 5b-7,  
 10-13a  
 Psalm: Psalm 23:1-6  
 Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

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For popular education, context is important. This encounter happens on the Sabbath and in the presence of Jesus and his disciples. This man lives on the social and existential peripheries: others speak about him, interpret him, and judge his life. His story seems to be defined by others.

Paulo Freire spoke of banking education, where the individual passively receives what others say, and of liberating education, where the individual becomes aware and recognizes themselves as the protagonist of their own story. The blind man in the Gospel experiences precisely this process.

At the beginning, he is just someone others talk about. The neighbors argue, the Pharisees interrogate him, and even his parents fear defending him. He is made invisible. But everything begins to change when Jesus notices him. Jesus approaches, touches him, and performs a deeply human gesture by putting mud on his eyes and sending him to wash. The blind man trusts and acts; he goes to wash. There his transformation begins.

Soon we discover that the healing is not only physical but also interior. His words show it: first he speaks of “that man named Jesus,” then he recognizes him as a prophet, and finally he dares to say: *“One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see.”*

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For Freire, speaking one's own words is a liberating act. This man goes from being an object to becoming the subject of his own story. He acknowledges what he has lived through and dares to stand by his experience.

In this story, we do not only contemplate a miracle. Jesus shows us the recovery of a person's dignity. That beggar on the roadside is now a man who stands up and whose voice begins to be heard.

This Gospel also invites us to look at our communities and our peoples today.  
*Who continue on the roadside? What voices remain invisible?*

Following Jesus may mean learning to stop, to look more deeply at reality, and to listen to the voices that often remain on the margins.

Some Questions to Help Our Personal and  
Community Reflection:

*What voices today need to be heard so that, like the blind man from the Gospel, they can go from being objects to subjects of their own history?*

*What does Jesus need to touch today in our lives so that we too can say: "Before I did not see, and now I see"?*



I thank Jesus for all those lives we have witnessed that have gone through this process of passing from being objects to subjects of their own history.

Song: "[El ciego de nacimiento](#)" (*The Man Blind from Birth*) by Javier Brú



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*Chile*